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UNITED STATES

Christian Commission

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1866.

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FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

FOR THE YEAR 1865.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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J. L. Ketcham, J. H. Ross, Rev. L. H. Jameson,
Rev. F. C. Holliday, D.D., Christian Spiegel, J. C. Hereth,
E. T. Sinker, J. W. Brown, Jacob Rubush,
Rev. G. Small.

KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE.

KENTUCKY BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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Isaac Russell, *Secretary.* J. G. Barrett, *Treasurer.*
Richard Knott, Wm. H. Bulkley,
J. H. Armstrong, Wm. Kendrick.

ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO.

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August Frank,	"	J. J. Tschudy, Monroe.
John Pritzlaff,	"	Frederick Koehn, Sheboygan.

IOWA.

KEOKUK.

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Col. William Thompson, *President and Treasurer.*

MISSOURI.

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ST. LOUIS BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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Rev. H. A. Nelson,	Rev. S. J. Niccolls,	I. S. Smyth,
Rev. W. G. Eliot,	Rev. J. G. Armstrong,	E. O. Stanard,
	J. V. Lyon.	

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MINNESOTA BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—HEADQUARTERS: ST. PAUL.

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T. D. Simonton, *Vice-President.* H. M. Knox, *Corresponding Secretary.*
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G F. Batchelder, Moses Cole, } *Vice-Presidents.*

J. S. Randolph, *Secretary*
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P. Sather, *Treasurer,* Rev. E. Thomas, *Secretary,*
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W. H. Coddington, Maj. Gen. L. H. Allen, Hon. Samuel Cowles,
Cyrus Palmer, J. T. Dean, L. B. Benchley,
S. B. Stoddard, Henry Dutton.

Rev. Charles P. Lyford, Rev. Henry D. Lathrop. } *Agents.*

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Mrs. Maj. Gen. McDowell,
Mrs. A. G. Stiles,
Mrs. S. B. Stoddard,
Mrs. J. Middleton,
Mrs. P. Beggs, } *Vice-Presidents.*

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Miss Jane Gray, *Corresponding Secretary.*

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Mrs. Nourse, Mrs. J. W. Cox, Mrs. M. D. Strong,
Miss Kelsey, Mrs. A. J. Dowver, Miss Hall,
Mrs. D. L. Beck, Mrs. Alonzo Wakeman, Mrs. Dr. Williamson,
Mrs. Dr. Tuthill, Mrs. J. H. Nevins. Mrs. Dr. J. N. Hume,
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Napa: George Goodman.
Marysville: Rev. Mr. Brodt, Mr. Hudson.
St. José: Rev. Lucius Hamilton,
Santa Clara: Prof. Bannister.
Nevada: J. N. Turner.
Benicia: Rev. Dr. Woodbridge.
Vallejo: Rev. N. B. Klink.
Healdsburg: Mr. Wilson.
Placerville: Rev. C. C. Wallace, Mrs. C. H. Cole.
Centreville: Rev. B. M. Seymour.
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Shasta: Rev. Mr. Macomber.
Santa Cruz: Dr. Bayle, Rev. Mr. Anthony.
Sonora: Mrs. Corvies, Mr. Street.
Columbia: Rev. Mr. Palmer, Mrs. Parsons.
Smartsville: Mrs. Simpson.
Red Bluff: Rev. Mr. Hurd.
Yreka: Rev. Mr. McDougal, Rev. Mr. Cain.
Copperopolis: Judge Rodgers.
Murpheys: Judge Ayers, Rev. Mr. Pierpont.

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NEVADA BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—HEADQUARTERS: VIRGINIA CITY.

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Rev. O. Whittaker, Gold Hill, *Secretary.*

Rev. C. V. Anthony,	Virginia.	Wm. M. Stuart,	"
Rev. D. H. Palmer,	"	Simon Frazer,	"
T. H. Pinkerton,	"	Rev. W. W. Macomber,	Gold Hill
W. W. Winton,	"	F. P. Ball,	"

J. B. Winters, Gold Hill.

Rev. A. F. White, *Chairman of Carson Committee.*

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Hon. Judge Haydon,	"	*Dayton*	"
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OREGON BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—HEADQUARTERS PORTLAND.

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REPESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ARMY COMMITTEES.

Jacksonville: Rev. Mr. Miller.
Roseburg: Rev. D. L. Spalding.
Eugene City: Rev. Mr. Lewis.
Corvallis: Rev. Mr. Wylie.
Albany: Rev. Mr. Irvin.
Brownsville: Rev. Mr. Geary.
Lafayette: Judge Cowles.
Salem: Rev. D. Leslie, Mr. Parrish.
McMinnville: Rev. George Chandler.
Forest Grove: Rev. Mr. March.
Astoria: W. L. Adams, Mr. Gale.
The Dalles: Dr. Steele.
Oregon City: Rev. Mr. Stearns.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

FORT VANCOUVER.

Rev. Mr. Hinds. Brig. Gen. Alvord.

GENERAL HOME COLLECTING AGENTS.

Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., Rev. Geo. J. Mingins,
Rev. C. P. Lyford, Rev. H. D. Lathrop,
Rev. C. C. McCabe.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

By the blessing of God on the Federal arms, this, the Fourth Annual Report, closes the work of the United States Christian Commission.

The Commission was created for a special object—to make a channel through which the affection and solicitude and piety of those at home might be fitly carried to the Army and Navy, where, by some of its members, nearly every loyal family was taking part in the great struggle for country, and, at the same time, afford a medium through which a fair representation of the toil and suffering and necessities of men under arms, might be brought directly to the people. As these homes, on the return of peace, have been, one by one, receiving back the volunteers, father and brother and son, the work of the Commission has gradually and naturally drawn to a close.

To the wishes and propositions of many earnest Christian laborers, that the Commission should be perpetuated, and throw the power of such combined religious effort and sympathy into some other channel of Christian labor, we have thought but one answer proper. The churches gave us a specific work to do. That work we have pursued strictly, and with such success as has been granted unto the end; and now it only remains for us to give an account of the stewardships and surrender the trust committed to us.

Field Work for 1865.

Special attention is called to the Reports of the Agents from the several fields, given elsewhere.

It will be seen that the work of the Commission's year, up to the disbanding of the armies, has been a continuance and expression of that of previous years.

The Diet Kitchen work, under the supervision of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, was enlarged in the West, and successfully introduced into the hospitals in Washington and in the army of the James.

Early in the year, Mr. T. R. Ewing became the General Field Agent in the army, under General Thomas. His report shows a great work accomplished under more than ordinary difficulties. The battle at Nashville, in December, and the frequent and sudden movements of the troops during the winter, prevented the opportunity for a continued religious effort, usually afforded by an army in winter quarters.

Yet at Huntsville, in the Fourth Corps, and in the same corps, at Nashville, in the spring, there was such a degree of religious interest manifested, as, in any one of our churches at home, would have been called a remarkable revival. The labors, as given in Mr. Ewing's Report, of Rev. Mr. McLeod, who accompanied the Sixteenth Army Corps to Mobile, afforded a fine illustration of the method and facility of the Christian Commission. With no appliances but his chapel tents and canvass roofs, depending on the good-will and kind offices of the men and their commanders, and supported by the prayers and gifts of the soldiers' friends in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, and Western New York, he marched to the Gulf with those twenty thousand men, the sole representative of the Commission, and made it felt as a power for good, spiritual and temporal, in every regiment of the corps.

The field work in the Mississippi Valley is set forth in the Report of the St. Louis Branch. Rev. J. R. Miller sketches accurately the Commission campaign in the Shenandoah. The Report of the Washington Commission, by Mr. Ballantyne, is accompanied by the Reports and sketches of the station agents in that Department.

In the Reports of the Commission in the armies operating against

Richmond, additional to the General Field Agent's sketch, we have given extended reports of the Field and Station and Corps Agents, believing that the interest derived, from accounts by eye-witnesses, will justify the partial repetition, and because this final Report furnishes a last opportunity to record in detail, a work whose leading features have been called forth for the first, and, we trust, the last time in the history of our land.

The late work, in Texas, is given more in detail than that of any other part of the year, because of its value in showing what needs to be done, and what can be done for our army in time of peace. We trust that the different Christian organizations will see how wide and hopeful a field of Christian labor is to be always found among seventy-five thousand troops of our standing army. The American Church can never again neglect the American soldier.

There are many laborers, both at home and in the field, whose names deserve a record in a last report. But the list would grow beyond reasonable limit. The 157 ladies, working unobtrusively in our diet kitchens, and attracting little attention outside the hospital ground, have been to many soldiers the greater part of the Christian Commission. They have received a nominal compensation, hardly sufficient to meet extra expenses, and sometimes that has gone for the purchase of delicacies for the sick.

The Report of Jno. Patterson, Esq., on the supply of horses and wagons for the Army of the Potomac, is too long for insertion here. The Executive Committee have twice shown their high appreciation of his services by resolutions of thanks and warm commendation.

The name of Rev. A. G. McAuley, a constant and indispensable helper in Philadelphia, does not appear, because of the impossibility of reporting his labors, various beyond classification, and multiplied beyond counting.

We regret that some of our agents and army commissioners have failed to send in their reports in time.

We submit, herewith, a tabular statement of the receipts and values, and distribution and work of the year:

GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES FOR 1865.

Cash Receipts of all the offices	$828,357 70
Value of Hospital Stores donated	1,115,457 73
Value of Publications donated	83,026 26
Value of Bibles and Testaments donated by the American Bible Society	52,382 66
Special grants from the Boston Y. M. C. A.	1,962 84
Value of Volunteer Delegates' services	80,713 69
Value of railroad, steamboat and other transportation facilities	51,440 00
Value of Telegraph facilities from Maine to California	13,325 00
Value of rents of warehouses and offices	8,500 00
	$2,234,165 88

SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1865.

No. of Boxes of Hospital Stores and Publications distributed	31,483
Value of Stores distributed	$1,311,868 84
Value of Publications distributed	$422,853 47
Value of Stationery distributed	$31,834 71
Value of Chapels and Chapel Tents erected	$20,567 76
Copies of Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scripture distributed	328,879
Copies of Hymn and Psalm Books distributed	379,150
Copies of Knapsack Books distributed	2,611,028
Copies of Bound Library Books distributed	159,781
Copies of Magazines and Pamphlets distributed	266,180
Copies of Religious, Weekly and Monthly Newspapers distributed	6,818,994
Pages of Tracts	2,492,473
Delegates Commissioned	1,079
Aggregate Number of Days of Delegate Service	49,982
Number of Delegates in the field, January 1st, 1866	29

There are two items in these tables that may be considered representative items: one of the *home* work and the other of *field* work of the Commission—*delegates* and *donations*. A comparison of these with the same items in the tables of preceding years, will best mark the growth of the Commission, rapid and continuous to the end.

During the first year of the Commission, 356 delegates were commissioned; the year following, 1,207; the third year, 2,217. In the four months of the present year, preceding the close of the war, 1,023 delegates were sent out, which rate continued through the year, would have given us 3,069. Thus reckoning the delegates by the hundred, for more ready comparison, they show an annual growth in the ratio of 3, 12, 22, 30.

In the first year our receipts amounted to $231,000; in the second year they reached $916,837; in the third year we had $2,882,347. From January to May, one-third of a year of active campaign, $2,228,105, which rate, continued twelve months, would have given, for this last year, $6,684,315. The donations, counted by the hundred thousand, make an increase in the ratio of 2, 9, 28, 66.

These figures show a steady and rapid growth, without a parallel in the history of Christian charities. Every day of its existence seems to have given the Commission a wider range and a firmer hold upon the affection and trust of the churches and patriots of the land. The boxes and barrels of supplies, and the voluntary donations that were pouring into our offices from well-nigh every town in the country, when the news of the great victory came, are a splendid testimony to the unflagging enthusiasm of its loyalty and piety. We accept this continued and growing favor of the people as their endorsement of the method and spirit of the Commission.

The Commission felt, at the first, that the work undertaken was unique. Experience in other benevolent organizations, could furnish little guide here, and, consequently, they were obliged to begin the field work with no prescribed plan or method, except that it should be Christian, and in accordance with Christian precept, should do good to all, as there was opportunity, by ministering to the want of every soldier and sailor that could be relieved. The idea of *direct* relief, of sending men to distribute the gifts from home, *in person*, to the suffering men, soon appears prominent. Then the volunteer system of unpaid labor, for a term not less than six weeks, is adopted, first, for its economy, but is afterwards continued for its efficiency and adaptation to the peculiarity of the work.

It was found, by experience, that nothing was more needed by the soldier, in his long absence from home, than these fresh in-

voices of home feeling—the piety and solicitude of the sanctuary and fireside brought to the field by these frequent changes of delegates; and it was soon found that friends at home desired nothing so much as the fresh, reliable pictures, by those returned laborers, of a soldier's trials, and gratitude and readiness to receive religious truth. There was a manifest disadvantage in this constant introduction of new workers to the field, but it was more than compensated by the fact that they were *new*—their freshness in strength and zeal and enthusiasm, and especially in sympathy for the suffering, more than duplicated their power.

Our experience in the field has justified the three distinguishing characteristics of the labor of the Christian Commission as a relief agency for the army, viz: that it should be direct, voluntary and Christian.

The organization of our field labor, under the direction of the field agents, grew from first to last into compactness and system; but always around these three characteristics of the relief undertaken, that it should be personal, without pay, and Christian.

A permanent general field agent in each army, with his assistants, one or two in each army corps, have been sufficient to give direction and control to all the delegates who volunteered their services for the term of six weeks. The character of the delegates, for the most part earnest responsible men, fresh in strength and zeal, coming out at a sacrifice, and with a corresponding mind to work, made the duty of directing so many, even in untried labor, comparatively easy. Thus, on an average through the permanent services of each agent, we have made available volunteer labor equivalent to the continuous services of eight men; and from the five thousand volunteers thus directed, we have secured the choicest talent and piety of the land, and in many instances, such services as could have been secured on no other plan. The amount of unpaid labor thus brought to the army, is equivalent to the labor of one man for five hundred years.

The second characteristic of the relief, personality, has also justified itself.

It is better to go to a man in trouble than to send to him. The people could not go, nor could the family friends. The Delegates of the Commission were the family representatives. That spirit was constantly inculcated, that the delegate was the father or brother

of every soldier he met, and what the absent one would do if in his place, that he was to do; and it has been extremely gratifying to see how generally and thoroughly this feeling has prevailed among the delegates, and how readily it has been detected by the soldiers, until the badge of the Commission became an invitation to the soldier to tell all his troubles even to a stranger, and oftentimes to commit his watch and purse to that stranger's care without taking a receipt or asking his name. It was this personal relief that was needed to supplement provision made by the government for the wants of a great army. It was not that the government could not afford the expense of comforts and delicacies, but because it could not give the personal attention necessary to individual cases. Regulations provide abundantly for the army as a whole. But in a million of men, amid the shifting emergencies of campaigns, there will be exceptional cases of so large a variety, that no regulation can provide for all. It is for these exceptional cases that army relief is needed, and they are to be relieved, not according to classified rules. Their cases and conditions are so peculiar that classification is impossible, else the government would have given the relief. They can be reached only by the ministrations of a friend giving himself personally to the work, and having within his reach the appropriate means. And it was to this personal relief that each delegate was commissioned, in the name of the friends he represented and whose tokens of love he bore to the camp and hospital. This absence of constraining rules, and consequent freedom of action by the delegates for cases where necessary military rule had made the suffering, gave the Commission its peculiar power.

In any question of supply, the delegate was enjoined to see that the soldier needs it, and then see that he gets it.

Of the third characteristic, little needs to be said. Piety is certainly no disqualification for disbursing public benefactions at discretion, and when in the nature of the disbursement no satisfactory vouchers can be given. The mode of bestowal will often double the value of the gift. Said a Wisconsin soldier in our rooms at Chattanooga, "These socks warm a fellow before he gets them on." How is that? "The way he gets them." Often have soldiers read on our board at Nashville, "If you are in trouble, speak to any man with the badge,—he is looking for you," and wiped tears from eyes that have looked death in the face without a quiver. Other things

being equal, a Christian is the better man to go to the suffering. True piety will give a gentler touch to the hand that washes a wound and ties a bandage. It makes counsel more effective, and finds more readily the hidden channels of sympathy. It makes the agent or delegate a better representative of home—any home, Christian or not. To say this is not bigotry—it is loyalty to Christ and His truth.

The figures we have given, if they cannot lie, neither can tell the full truth. Those appeals, in the name of Christ and country, to crowded, tearful audiences, in the churches and halls of the land; by them, how many better natures have been touched, and holier purposes evoked!

Those 5,000 delegates, pastors and laymen, sent forth and followed by the prayers of all who pray; how many have themselves been stirred and quickened, and have returned home clothed with new power for good! To how many weary and tempted men have they brought the cheer and restraint of home! Those tracts, knapsack books and papers; how little do these large figures show of their power to re-enforce Christian workers, relieve tedium, quicken thought, and supplant sin!

Those Bibles and Testaments! Given freely every where, and yet scarcely one without its story; many of them well thumbed and kept close and safe in the fight or march, when knapsack and blanket are thrown away.

Those Hymn-books! The companions of the Testaments; how often have they lightened the march and lighted the camp, and brought the home altar nearer the soldier's heart!

Those chapel tents and log churches with canvas roofs, dotting the tented fields! How full of encouragement to faithful chaplains, and how precious in the memory of thousands who confess that they were born there!

Those camp sermons and prayer-meetings! How many weary disciples refreshed, and wanderers recovered—how many tears of penitence and tears of joy in new-born hope—how many a brave soldier's manly word for Christ and truth have they witnessed!

Those sheets of paper and envelopes, counted by millions of millions, each one a soldier's messenger to his home! There was not one too many—not an envelope but was freighted with tidings that

seemed long delayed. What a vast work have they done in bringing camp and fireside together!

Those letters written by delegates! Some of them dictated on the spot where a young patriot was lying in his blood—others bearing home "last words" or a lock of hair, or a leaf from a tree over a soldier's grave. Every one relieved or broke some anxious heart.

Those millions in money and stores! How many hard-earned dollars gladly given, and numberless and nameless comforts, filling boxes and barrels, have an unwritten history in their gathering and in their spending! On how many thousands and millions of hearts, young and old, have they brought down the blessedness of giving! How many old have grown young in the toil gladly accepted, and how many young workers have sprung into the maturity of sacrifice and labor! To how many patriots, on bloody field or hospital cot, have these gifts, fragrant with the touch of home, brought back courage and life! An unwritten history, indeed, for which figures have no power, indicated only by the love that gathered them, and the blessings of him far away, that was ready to perish without them!

Parting Words.

Our joy in being permitted, by the return of peace to the land, and the soldiers to their homes, to cease the labors of the Commission, is shaded with regret. Very pleasant, indeed, have been our associations, during these years, with those who have toiled for the welfare of the soldier and sailor. We cannot allow them to close without thanksgiving to God for this goodly fellowship.

We do not forget that he who was at once the pride and hope of the nation, an early and devoted friend of the Commission, a most intimate participator at our meeting one year ago, has not been permitted to see the end with us. President's Lincoln's appreciation of the Christian Commission was only another expression of his more than paternal love for his soldiers. To have found a place in such a heart, and the approval of such a mind, we deem a special cause for thanksgiving.

To the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the heads of the different departments of the army in Washington, and to the Lieutenant-General and all his commanders in the field, we are under peculiar obligations. They have not only allowed and approved, but have enabled us thus to minister to the suffering.

To the army committees in the different branches of the Commission—merchants and professional men—who have left their ordinary business to give time and strength and anxious thought for the welware of the soldier, through the Christian Commission, we have been drawn with increasing admiration and love. Knowing that they have their reward, we desire only to assure them that in our parting, "the tie that binds" is not broken. Memory shall keep it ready for all united Christian work in times of peace, till at length, by God's grace, it holds us again, united in the service above.

To the pastors of churches, the children in the Sunday schools, and to the thousands and millions all over our land who have joined hands with us in these ministrations for Christ, no words of ours can adequately set forth our gratitude in this farewell hour. Upon them we have leaned, and not been disappointed. They have refused no appeals in behalf of the national defenders. Their trust in the Commission, and their generous enthusiasm, growing and swelling to the last, have been our stay and strength.

To the loyal women who, in ladies' Christian Commissions, in leagues and aid societies, have fed the flame of piety and patriotism in our homes, and in heavy hours, for successive years, with busy fingers and devices of love, have kept the hands of our agents and delegates in the field so full of comforts for suffering patriots, it is not enough to say we are profoundly grateful. To them, under God, the Commission owes its success. We only anticipate the verdict of the future, when we say that, thus far in human history, such work is exclusively theirs—a work that could have been wrought only by praying wives and mothers and sisters in behalf of imperilled kindred and country.

Finally, to God, the giver and guide of all, we join with each fellow-laborer of the Christian Commission, in thanksgiving and praise. The work is His. To Him be the glory. We gave the Commission the name of the Master. We sent it forth to speak His words and imitate His deeds. Christ, the Lord, has accepted and honored it; and now, wherever mention shall be made of the work it has accomplished, we desire only that the quick, grateful, adoring response shall be, "See what the Lord hath wrought!"

EXHIBIT A.

CASH RECEIPTS, TRANSFERS, AND BALANCES OF CENTRAL OFFICE, BRANCHES, BASE OFFICES. AND ARMY AGENCIES, DURING 1865.

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1. Balance on hand, per last Annual Report, Dec. 31, 1864.	2. Cash received directly into the various Treasuries.	3. Cash remitted by Cent'l Office to Branches and Agencies.	4. Cash remitted from one Branch Office to others.	5. Total Cash Receipts, including Balance from 1864.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ...	Philadelphia,	$5,420 12	$241,136 11		$229,012 82	$475,569 05
BRANCH OFFICES:						

l for ions ed.	Ca for of nts.	22. Cash paid for Expenses of Meetings, including Travelling Expenses of Agents.	23. Cash paid for Rent, Office Expenses, Postage, Advertising, Incidentals &c.	24. Cash paid for Freight, Express, Drayage, Labor, &c.	25. Cash Balance (*d*) in Treasuries, December 30, 1865.	26. Total Cash Disbursements, Transfers and Balances.

EXHIBIT C.

NUMBER OF PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED, AND NUMBER AND VALUE OF PACKAGES OF DONATED STORES AND PUBLICATIONS, DURING 1865.

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1. Number of Boxes & Packages of Stores Distributed.	2. Number of Boxes and Packages of Publications Distributed.	3. Number of Boxes and Packages of Donated Stores.	4. Number of Boxes and Packages of Donated Publications.	5. Value of Donated Stores.	6. Value of Donated Publications.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ...	Philadelphia,	5,318	3,852	1,149	98	$119,746 21	$8,400 15
ALBANY BRANCH, ...	Albany,			52	5	3,582 24	170 00
MARYLAND BRANCH, ...	Baltimore,	2,447	350	560	55	11,200 00	1,400 00
BATH ARMY COMMITTEE, ...	Bath, Me.,			54	6	6,600 00	400 00
ARMY COMMITTEE OF BOSTON Y. M. C. A., .	Boston,	116	47	747	45	108,025 00	45,950 00
BROOKLYN AND L. I. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,	Brooklyn,		50				3,000 00
BRANCH FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY,	Buffalo,			353		6,103 98	
NORTH WESTERN BRANCH, ...	Chicago,	493	56	269	44	13,450 00	1,760 00
CINCINNATI BRANCH, ...	Cincinnati,	3,446	161	3,114	27	289,602 74	3,024 00

EXHIBIT D.

TOTAL OF PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED IN 1865, SHOWING GRANTS OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, AND THE QUANTITIES PURCHASED AT EACH OFFICE.

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1. Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scriptures, Grants of American Bible Society and its Depositaries.	2. Hymn and Psalm Books.	3. Knapsack Books, in Paper or Flexible Covers.	4. Bound Library Books.	5. Magazines and Pamphlets.	6. Weekly and Monthly Religious Newspapers.	7. Pages of Tracts.
Central Office,	Philadelphia.	187,110	122,311	1,595,067	98,250	174,120	3,689,746	1,362,415
Albany Branch,	Albany.....	300	.....	500	150	1,00	2,000	10,000
Maryland Branch,	Baltimore	5,550	3,100	25,372	1,250	1,376	56,800	60,300
Army Committee of Boston Y. M. C. A.,	Boston.....	1,869	25,800	16,580	14,460	.....	22,800	198,720
Brooklyn and L. I. Chris. Commission,	Brooklyn	1,500	500	5,000	4,500	8,000	3,500	20,000
Northwestern Branch,	Chicago.....	.....	63,130	14,721	3,328	2,765	410,000	85,806
Cincinnati Branch,	Cincinnati	9,940	55,091	458,083	8,678	18,117	803,236	101,658
Detroit Branch,	Detroit.....	200	300	500	.....	150	6,000	.....
Indiana Branch,	Indianapolis..	10,956	2,930	20,568	1,210	515	18,119	10,452
Kentucky Branch,	Louisville.....	.....	.....	400	.....	.....	5,600	15,000
New York Committee,	New York.....	8,635	34,824	134,276	6,733	15,936	577,650	238,734
Peoria Branch,	Peoria	12,608	15,809	119,699	.....	896	161,508	56,928
Army Committee, Western Penna.,	Pittsburgh....	5,310	18,490	75,600	6,318	37,020	615,485	126,460
St. Louis Branch,	St. Louis.....	9,362	36,865	144,662	14,904	6,285	432,935	206,000
Minnesota Branch,	St. Paul.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000	.....
Central New York Branch,	Utica	525	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,615	.....
Washington Comm., Dist. Columbia,	Washington...	25,814	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rebel Soldiers of Army of Mississippi, through Memphis and Shelby County Bible Society, Tennessee,	Memphis.....	49,200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals,	.....	328,879	379,150	2,611,028	159,781	266,180	6,818,994	2,492,473

EXHIBIT E.

Delegates Commissioned in 1865, and their Work—Permanent Laborers, &c.

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1. Delegates Commissioned.	2. Number in Field 1st Jan., 1866.	3. Aggregate Number of Days' Service of Delegates.	4. Diet Kitchen. Lady Managers Employed.	5. Army Agents Employed.	6. Paid Agents Employed in Home Work.
Central Office,	Philadelphia.	192	.....	6,924	78	41	16
Albany Branch,	Albany.....	3	.....	100	.....	.....	.....
Maryland Branch,	Baltimore.....	27	.....	648	.....	6	1
Bath Army Committee,	Bath, Me.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Army Committee of Boston Y. M. C. A.,	Boston.....	247	3	8,645	.....	.....	1
Brooklyn and L. I. Christian Commission,	Brooklyn.....	52	.....	1,721	.....	.....	3
Branch for Western New York and Vicinity,	Buffalo.....	31	.....	1,433	.....	.....	4
Northwestern Branch,	Chicago.....	51	4	2,397	5	4	5
Cincinnati Branch,	Cincinnati....	155	.....	6,501	1	1	1
Cleveland Army Committee,	Cleveland.....	5	.....	136	.....	.....	.....
Detroit Branch,	Detroit.....	33	.....	1,320	.....	.....	1
Harrisburg Committee,	Harrisburg...	5	.....	170	.....	.....	1
Connecticut Branch,	Hartford.....	35	.....	1,307	2	.....	2
Indiana Branch,	Indianapolis..	11	.....	448	.....	.....	6
Kentucky Branch,	Louisville.....	.....	.....	1,121	41	.....	8
Wisconsin Branch,	Milwaukee....	45	.....	1,845	.....	.....	.....
New York Committee,	New York.....	21	.....	5,720	.....	.....	2
Peoria Branch,	Peoria.....	30	1	1,243	1	5	1
Army Committee, Western Pennsylvania,	Pittsburgh ...	40	9	1,175	7	1	.....
Rochester Committee,	Rochester.....	2	.....	84	.....	.....	.....
St. Louis Branch,	St. Louis.....	39	10	4,764	22	50	3
Minnesota Branch,	St. Paul.....	6	1	241	.....	.....	.....
Troy Branch,	Troy.....	4	.....	90	.....	.....	.....
Central New York Branch,	Utica.....	36	.....	1,449	.....	.....	1
Washington Committee, District of Columbia,	Washington...	9	1	500	*	*	1
Totals,	.....	1079	29	49,982	157	108	58

* Included in Central Office.

EXHIBIT F.

General Summary of Work and Distributions for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.

PARTICULARS.	1. 1865.	2. 1864.	3. 1863.	4. 1862.	5. Totals for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.
Delegates Commissioned,	1,079	2,217	1,207	356	4,859
Aggregate Number of Days of Delegates' Service,	49,982	78,869	41,118	11,593	181,562
Boxes of Stores and Publications Distributed,	31,624	47,103	12,648	3,691	95,066
Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scripture Distributed,	328,879	569,594	465,715	102,560	1,466,748
Hymn and Psalm Books,	379,150	489,247	371,859	130,697	1,370,953
Knapsack Books in Paper and Flexible Covers,	2,611,028	4,326,676	1,254,591	115,757	8,308,052
Bound Library Books,	159,781	93,872	39,713	3,450	296,816
Magazines and Pamphlets,	266,180	346,536	120,492	34,653	767,861
Religious Weekly and Monthly Newspapers,	6,818,994	7,990,758	2,931,469	384,781	18,126,002
Pages of Tracts,	2,492,473	13,681,342	11,976,722	10,953,706	39,104,243
"Silent Comforter," &c.,	759	3,698	3,285	830	8,572
Sermons Preached by Delegates,					58,308
Prayer-Meetings held by Delegates,					77,744
Letters Written by Delegates,					92,321

Note.—There were also distributed, by the various Branches and Army Agencies, during the war, 7,067,000 sheets of paper, and 7,066,000 envelopes.

EXHIBIT G.

General Summary of Receipts and Values for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.

PARTICULARS.	1. 1865.*	2. 1864.	3. 1863.	4. 1862.	5. Totals for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.
Cash Receipts at Central and Branch Offices,	$828,357 70	$1,297,755 28	$358,239 29	$40,160 29	$2,524,512 56
Value of Stores Donated to Central and Branch Offices,	1,141,957 73	1,169,508 37	385,829 07	142,150 00	2,839,445 17
Value of Publications Donated to Central and Branch Offices,	83,026 26	31,296 32	.....	.....	114,322 58
Value of Scriptures donated by American Bible Society,	52,382 66	72,114 83	45,071 50	10,256 00	179,824 99
Value of Scriptures donated by British and For. Bible Society,	.....	.....	1,677 79	.....	1,677 79
Value of Hymn Books donated by Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston,	1,962 84	1,788 06	.....	.....	3,750 90
Value of Delegates' Service,	80,713 69	169,920 00	72,420 00	21,360 00	344,413 69
Value of Railroad, Steamboat, and other Transport. Facilities,	51,440 00	106,765 00	44,210 00	13,680 00	216,095 00
Value of Telegraph Facilities, from Maine to California,	12,325 00	26,450 00	9,380 00	3,650 00	51,815 00
Value of Rents of Warehouses and Offices,	8,500 00	6,750 00	.....	.....	15,250 00
Totals,	$2,260,665 88	$2,882,347 86	$916,837 65	$231,256 29	$6,291,107 68

* This the work of four months only, as the active campaign closed in April with the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Lee,

BRANCH REPORTS.

Report of Cincinnati Branch, United States Christian Commission.

From the first of January, 1865, the date of the last annual Report, until the office was closed, about the middle of August, the work of the Cincinnati Branch continued to prosper. It was understood, soon after the fall of Richmond, that the business of the Commission would be closed up as speedily as possible. Notwithstanding a public statement to this effect, the people of Ohio continued to furnish the means necessary to carry on our operations creditably and successfully, until supplies were no longer needed. Some of the most prominent items of receipts and distributions are given in the following table:

Number of Boxes, &c., of Stores sent to the Field, or distributed at Home, *exclusive* of those sent to, or received from the Central or Branch offices	3,446
Number of Boxes, &c., of Publications sent to the Field, or distributed at Home, exclusive of those sent to, or received from Central or Branch offices	161
Number of Boxes of Stores donated directly to this Branch	3,114
Number of Boxes of Publications donated directly to this Branch	27
Estimated value of these donated Stores	$289,602 74
Estimated value of these donated Publications	3,024 00

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS,

Exclusive of those received from, or sent to Central office during 1865.

Number of copies of Scriptures, or portions of them	9,940
Number of Hymn and Psalm Books	55,091

Number of Soldiers' and Sailors' Knapsack Books, in paper or flexible covers...	458,083
Number of Bound Volumes of Library and other Books...	8,678
Number of Magazines and Pamphlets...	18,117
Aggregate number of Weekly and Monthly Religious Newspapers...	803,236
Number of Pages of Tracts...	101,658

In making up this final statement of our Branch of the United States Christian Commission, it is due the generous people who have so freely contributed to sustain it, to make a grateful acknowledgment of their untiring liberality. From the opening of the office, at No. 51 Vine street, until it was closed, an uninterrupted stream of money and stores poured in upon us from the patriotic men and women of the West, and especially of the State of Ohio. Soldiers' Aid Societies and Ladies' Christian Commissions, by scores, and hundreds, kept us supplied with the means to minister largely to the comfort and temporal wants of our noble boys in blue! We held no large sum of money in our treasury, believing that Providence would furnish us the means to do our work. God honored the faith of his servants—since, although our funds were often low, we never were without the means to meet our obligations.

The removal of Rev. E. P. Smith, the efficient and successful Field Agent of our department, to the eastern work, was felt to be a severe loss. From the beginning he had superintended the work in the West with a sagacity, discrimination and zeal worthy of the highest praise. His self-denying labors, amid suffering and personal dangers, in behalf of his country, in all the dark days and months of the great rebellion, should endear him to the hearts of his countrymen.

His place, at Nashville, was well filled by Mr. T. R. Ewing, an earnest Christian gentleman, and a most genial, kind-hearted man and efficient administrator. Mrs. E. P. Smith remained in charge of the "home" at Nashville, performing a service for which few women could have been found equally qualified, with a cheerfulness and a hearty enthusiasm worthy of all honor. Hundreds and thousands of soldiers, who have been in the hospitals of Nashville, will remember Mrs. Smith to their dying day. Not a few will join in gratitude with an Illinois soldier, who said to the friend at his

cot, taking his dying message, "Tell Mrs. Smith I shall thank her in heaven for the ice."

The transfer of Rev. J. F. Loyd, to the Louisville agency, was an important and satisfactory change. Under his wise and faithful administration, and by the transfer of Gen. Sherman to Louisville, this became one of our most interesting fields. We believe that the Christian Commission has had few workers more reliable, faithful and competent than Mr. Loyd. The statistical tables, published in this report, will exhibit the receipts and expenditures of the year. During the last year of our work, our financial records were kept by Mr. W. J. Breed, of the Commission, who rendered thus, gratuitously, a service of great magnitude and importance, in addition to his very liberal cash contributions.

A. E. Chamberlain & Co., have given us office and store-room, without charge.

Our President, Mr. Chamberlain, continued to serve the cause, with unabated zeal and success, until the last. For more than two years all his time was consecrated to his suffering country. By public addresses, all over Ohio, he aroused the zeal of others, and contributed, more largely than any other person, to make the Christian Commission the people's favorite channel of communication with the army. In this work of appeal to the people at home, we have, also, been very largely aided by services most cheerfully and efficiently rendered by Hon. Bellamy Storer and Rev. B. W. Chidlaw. The volume which records the closing labors of so beneficent an institution, would be incomplete and unsatisfactory, if it did not make special mention of these noble men, who rendered such unselfish and signal service to the best government God ever gave to man, in the darkest hour of its whole history.

JOHN F. MARLAY, *Secretary.*

Report of the Army Committee of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1865.

The Committee, in presenting their fourth annual report, would, with profound gratitude, recognize the fact that the fratricidal war commenced in our country in 1861, has, by the victorious army of the Union, under the signal blessing of Almighty God, been brought

to a successful and final termination. The Christian Commission, which has been steadily augmenting its power and usefulness, has never more efficiently extended and applied its labors than during the eventful and closing scenes of the war. Through the unfailing and generous response of the people in various parts of New England, to every appeal made by this Committee, they have been enabled to continue their active co-operation in the work of the Commission.

The facts which they have now the privilege to record, show that New England, during the past year as heretofore, has shared in the grateful duty of alleviating the bodily sufferings, and of ministering also to the spiritual necessities of the soldiers and seamen, by whose valor and sacrifice her homes have been defended.

The *Cash Receipts* by the Committee during the year have been,.....	$87,826 24
917 Packages of *material* supplies have been received and distributed through the agency of delegates, valued at...	114,625 00
Books and publications distributed as per detailed statement in tabular form, valued at.....	46,350 00
	$248,801 24

Contributions on the Merchant's Exchange.

We should do injustice to our fellow-citizens of Boston, if we should omit again to recognize their noble generosity in response to every appeal made. On three occasions during the war the agency of this Committee was offered to the public in the Merchant's Exchange Reading Room, through the courtesy of F. H. Palmer, Superintendent, in behalf of its liberal proprietors, and the whole amount of contributions made there, have been but little short of *one hundred thousand dollars.*

The total amount of cash receipts by the Committee since its first organization have been $405,852 96.

Of the numerous volumes of religious reading distributed, especial attention has been given to compiling and publishing the "Soldier's Hymn Book," and the large number of copies which have been forwarded in response to urgent and frequent requests from the army gives evidence of the popularity of this invaluable solace to the soldiers.

The life and character of Lieutenant Colonel Dahlgren, was re-

garded as so distinguished for piety and heroism, as to be worthy to be placed prominently before the minds of the young soldiers. Under the direction of the Committee, about two thousand volumes of his biography have been published, by the aid of a special donation from Hon. A. A. Lawrence. The following letter attests the gratitude of the father for this tribute to the memory of his son:

U. S. FLAG SHIP, "PHILADELPHIA,"
PORT ROYAL HARBOR, S. C., Nov. 24, 1864.

MR. L. P. ROWLAND, JR.,
Agent Army Committee Young Men's
Christian Association, Boston, Mass.:

MY DEAR SIR:—I have only just now received the copies of the memorial of my son, which your Association has been pleased to assign a place among its publications for distribution.

I am unable to express my grateful thanks to you for this token of regard to my gallant boy.

It comes fittingly from those who, by their youth and convictions, Religious and Patriotic, represent the class to which the young soldier belonged.

You may be assured that this mark of remembrance for my beloved son, will always be cherished by me with feelings that language would fail to convey, and which will be borne in my memory to the end, with the never absent recollection of himself.

With my fervent wishes for the prosperity of the Association and its members,

I am most gratefully and truly,
Your obedient servant,
J. S. DAHLGREN,
Rear Admiral Com. So. Atlantic Block'g Squadron.

From the many letters received from the soldiers bearing testimony to the appreciation and happy influence of the religious books which have been distributed, we select a few extracts only:

CAMP OF THE 6TH VT. VOLS.,
Nov. 19th, 1864.

L. P. ROWLAND, JR.,
Agent, Army Committee, Young Men's
Christian Association, Boston.

DEAR SIR:—I thankfully acknowledge the receipt of your bundle of hymn-books, tracts and papers, quite exceeding my anticipations;

but as I had them, it became both a *pleasure*, and a duty, to distribute them through the regiment. They were received eagerly,—the supply far below the demand; more so, as our new chaplain, brother William Webster, had not then received his promised bundle, nor has he yet. I read and lent mine, and now would ask *more*, because the reading of such good books and papers makes us *better men*. Every evening I listen to those hymns from the humble tents of my fellow comrades. True, there are but a *few* of the "*faithful*," but, with God's grace, more will be brought in this winter. We have an efficient chaplain, and we take courage.

May God bless you in your labors for the preservation of our souls! We pray for your welfare, although strangers on earth. We appreciate these gifts, and determine to live as *Christian* soldiers,—"to endure hardness as such." I will, if God spare me through this service, accept your invitation to visit your rooms at 5 Tremont Temple. I was in Boston on this conscript business, and bought my precious Bible at the Massachusetts Bible Association, near the American Tract Society. I would not come in ahead of our chaplain in getting reading from you. You can send it to him. But I know of his sending elsewhere; so if you send me another bundle, I assure you they shall be faithfully distributed.

I am yours truly,

SERG'T. GEORGE C. BABCOCK,
Co. F, 6th Vt. Vols.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, March 4, 1865.

L. P. ROWLAND, Jr., *Agent, &c.*

DEAR SIR:—Your kind letter of February 22d, was received last evening. Allow me once more to thank you for your kindness to me, an entire stranger. I am a poor young man, without rank, name or education; but I trust that I "know that my Redeemer liveth," and pray that I may be found faithful to Him as long as I live. You signified your willingness to send me some more reading matter, if I desired it. If I should send for any more for myself, I should feel as though I was acting selfishly, having already received much more than I expected; but if you wish to send me some tracts or small books to distribute among the soldiers, it would afford me great satisfaction to be the agent of your wishes. There is a strong probability of our leaving here soon. The 3d Brigade of our Di-

vision is embarking to-day. So, if you send books of much weight, they would be inconvenient to carry. But knowing that your judgment is far superior to mine, I leave it to you. Hoping you will excuse me for trespassing so much on your time,

I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

ALBERT E. QUAIFE.

The fact that nearly all the sick and wounded men are sent to hospitals as near to the seat of war as possible, has relieved Massachusetts, to a great extent, from the duty and the privilege of ministering to them at home, and hence the labors of this Committee have been mainly through the agency of delegates on the battle-field, or in field hospitals, although the recruiting camps at Readville, and at Galloupe's Island in Boston Harbor, have received a share of our labors.

The thousands of seamen on board the U. S. receiving-ship Ohio, at the navy-yard in Charlestown, for enlistment, receive regular ministrations and kind attentions from members of the Young Men's Christian Association, independently of this Committee; and the disabled soldiers, honorably discharged from service, find an asylum in the Discharged Soldiers' Home in this city, where their spiritual wants receive the regular care of a Chaplain and other competent religious guides. *The sphere of action of this Committee has been limited, therefore, chiefly to the collection of funds and to forwarding supplies for distribution from the Central Office in Philadelphia.*

The following letter is an evidence of the deep interest of our countrymen, residing in distant lands, in our labors:

MISSIONARY HOUSE, PEMBERTON SQUARE,
BOSTON, June 6, 1864.

L. P. ROWLAND, ESQ.,
Agent U. S. Christian Commission, Boston:

DEAR SIR: Herewith I send you a box of wine, which a lady missionary in Turkey has forwarded for the use of our sick and wounded soldiers. She does not wish her name mentioned, but I would state that she is a widow, whose husband was murdered a few years since, after a brief but very active and fruitful missionary

life. She remains in the field, laboring with great devotion. I subjoin an extract from her letter to me, in regard to the wine.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. GORDON, *Treasurer.*

"KESSAB, July 18, 1864.

I have just ordered a box, containing wine, sent to your care for the sick and wounded of our army. It is marked 'Christian Commission, U. S. A.' You will please see that through this society, or some other, it reaches the sick and wounded. The wine is more than four years old, and I know it to be the pure juice of the grape; it having been made by our native doctor at Aintab. You need not give my name, but present it from one who is grateful for kindness shown to a wounded and dying husband; and who, though far away, would fain give the widow's mite to her country."

Two hundred and forty-seven volunteer and unpaid delegates, from New England, nearly all of whom were clergymen, have engaged in the service of the Commission during the past year. Their energetic and invaluable labors have earned for them the blessings of numberless suffering and dying men, and of their grateful relatives at home. To this noble band of volunteers the Boston Young Men's Christian Association has contributed one of its most earnest and efficient members.

The truly heroic and self-denying character of the ministrations of our devoted young Christian brother, James S. Kimball, under great exposure, by which his life was forfeited, in Nashville, on 10th December last, has enshrined his memory in the hearts of his early associates, and has left an example worthy of their highest respect and emulation.

Of the labors and striking incidents of the closing hours of his life, Rev. E. P. Smith, Field Agent, writes:

In that first night of the battle, while we lay listening to Jackson's appeal to his Saviour, the party in reserve, after the day's duty in the hospital, were gathered around the dying bed of a brother delegate, at our home in the city. James S. Kimball, of Boston, who had declined a commission in the army to give gratuitous service in the Christian Commission, had preached in the barracks a few evenings before, and finding a soldier without coat or

blanket, shivering in the cold, loaned him his shawl, forgetting his own peculiar exposure to the night wind, after the excitement of a preaching service. The next day he was prostrate with a chill that brought congestion and brain fever. As the guns from Fort Negley multiplied into a hundred batteries along the line, and made the windows shake, his zeal for souls seemed to kindle. He was passing through the barracks and hospital wards, gathering imagined congregations, leading them in song and prayer, and exhorting them most earnestly to a new life. So he continued to the last. It was his soul, Kimball himself, after an overworked brain had broken down, holding fast to the one idea of his life, salvation now for those who believe in Christ; and thus he passed through fever and delirium, to be in the world above wear and weariness, "forever with the Lord."

The exigencies occasioned by the war which brought into existence the Christian Commission, have nearly passed away, and its special duties will probably cease before the close of this year, unless it shall be thought expedient to continue its labors with such portion of the army and navy as may be retained in service. The young men are now to be gratefully welcomed to the homes which they have defended. They have created a new and stronger claim on the community to throw around them, especially in cities, through the Young Men's Christian Association, the kindly influences of Christian sympathy and protection from temptations which will surround them with renewed power.

And now that the demand for aid and comfort on the battle-field is no longer to be made, is it too much to ask, in grateful recognition of their services to the country, that the friends of the several Young Men's Christian Associations, and of kindred institutions in our country, shall indicate a deeper interest in them than ever before?

While the highest order of artistic skill is exhibited in the buildings arranged to allure young men to amusements, shall their friends be less careful to win them, by appropriate and convenient rooms, where they may spend their leisure hours amid the ennobling influences of the social circle, of the reading room, the lecture room, or the prayer-meeting?

Let us rather hope that the substantial evidences of gratitude to our country's defenders will not end with the war.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD S. TOBEY, *Chairman.*

JACOB SLEEPER,
JOS. STORY,
J. SULLIVAN WARREN,
RUSSELL STURGESS, JR., } *Army Committee.*

Fourth Annual Report of the North-western Branch, United States Christian Commission.

CHICAGO, January 1, 1866.

We rejoice that we are permitted to make a *final* report of our labors; not, that the blessed privileges we have enjoyed are ended, but that the great need of such service is past. Our work, during the past year, may be divided as follows, viz.:

Army work, in the field and hospitals, with the armies under Grant, in Virginia; Sherman, at Savannah; Thomas, in Tennessee and Mississippi; and Sheridan, in Texas. We have sent to this work, *fifty-one Delegates*, who have spent an average of *forty-seven* days each, in the service, delivered five hundred and seventy-one *Sermons* and *Addresses*, and held one thousand one hundred and fifteen *Prayer-Meetings*. We have sent forward three hundred and forty-nine *Packages* of *Stores*, and forty-one of *Publications*, exclusive of those received from Philadelphia, and four hundred and ten thousand copies of *Western Religious Papers*.

Home work has been of a three-fold character. 1st, *In our Camps and Hospitals*. The labors at *Camp Douglas* have been carried on with increased earnestness. Several thousands of our own troops, and over seven thousand prisoners of war, have come under our care. We kept one permanent male, and one lady delegate, the latter in charge of our reading-room, and sent volunteer aid to assist in holding a *daily* service, and often more than one. The authorities having built a chapel, we erected an addition for a reading-room, well furnished and cared for, which has been of great value. The interest in the meetings has, at times, been very deep, and many precious souls have been led to Jesus. We also

aided the surgeon in establishing a *Diet Kitchen*, in connection with the hospitals, conducted by two, and part of the time by three, lady managers, supported by us, until there was no longer need for them. We contributed largely to their supply of fruits and delicacies. The results of this work have been most gratifying.

We have been much aided in our labors, especially among the prisoners, by the Post Chaplain. The distribution of *stores*, at *this post*, include one hundred and forty-four packages, and of *Publications*, two hundred and fifteen packages; while hundreds of small articles of food and clothing, and thousands of papers and tracts, are not enumerated.

2d. *Our Collections*, which, in the four months of this year, have exceeded those of any previous year, and amount to,

Cash, - - - - - - - - - -	$73,667,11
Stores and Publications, - - - - - -	15,210,00
Total, - - - - - - - - -	$88,877,11

At the rate our donations were pouring in, had the war continued during the year, we should have received a quarter of a million of dollars.

3d. *Our work for our Returned Soldiers.* At the close of the war we were daily besieged by a small army of our brave men, hundreds of whom reached our city, *en route* for every part of the East and North-west, often without a dime to pay for fare or meals, often sick, and frequently on crutches; while hundreds more had returned to our own state, and were without employment. We established a *Bureau of Employment*, and furnished transportation and money for meals, to those who were to go on; beds and rest for the sick and weary. We also secured, during the last six months, over *twelve hundred situations* and places of employment, to returned soldiers who remained in our own city and state. It is but just to say, that the Sanitary Commission have aided in paying the expenses of the Bureau, but all moneys for transportation, meals, &c., have been paid by us. We have also extended aid to some of our hospitals, for care of sick soldiers, and also for the widows and children of those who have fallen.

We co-operated with Gen. Fisk in maintaining a "*rear guard*"

of the Commission at Nashville, after our regular work there had ceased.

Having sent four permanent delegates to Texas, and wishing to have the work there continue as long as possible, we were obliged to discontinue co-operating in the general work on the 1st of December, that we might be able to sustain our noble band of laborers in that far-off field; and have notified them to remain and draw on us for supplies until our funds are exhausted, or the restless people upon our South-western border shall be nestled to repose, under the protecting wing of our National Eagle, and the last soldier of our glorious Volunteer Army has reached his home. We may not omit the cheering news from our delegates, Rev. Jeremiah Porter and wife, at Brownsville, and Mr. H. R. Towne, at Ringgold, that the same revival spirit that has followed wherever the Christian Commission has labored, is now manifest in their meetings, and many are enlisting under the banner of King Emmanuel.

In closing, we rejoice that we have been privileged to send you so many reports since we began our meetings, in Camp Douglas, on the 1st of June, 1861, and were permitted to send the *first* delegates to the battle-field. We regret that this last report will not include the *final* labors with the army in Texas. But the record, *on high*, will be perfect, and we shall be permitted to rejoice, not only with those who have been spared to return, but with many who, on the field of battle,

> "Were lulled to sleep at the tattoo of death,
> And waked by the reveille of angels;"

and above all, with HIM, in whose name we went forth, and in whose strength we have conquered. We thank HIM, that we have been permitted, in this service, to bear the cross, that we might wear the crown, to share the labors and honor, the work and the reward, the conflict and the *Peace*, of the United States Christian Commission.

B. F. JACOBS, *Secretary.*

St. Louis Branch Report for 1865.

On account of its favorable position as a base of military operations, this Branch has been the great distributing agent of the United States Christian Commission in the valley of the Mississippi.

We have had therefore a two-fold work, the collection of stores and funds by our own agents, and the disbursement of appropriations by the Central Office, and the Branch Offices at Peoria, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee, making our duties arduous and complicated; but we are grateful to God for the privilege of attempting to meet these increased responsibilities.

In no year of the rebellion has our work been greater, and the sudden close of the war for a time increased, rather than diminished it. St. Louis has been crowded during the year with soldiers on their way from the Eastern army to the "Plains" and Texas. Many thousands of our boys from the Southern prison pens were sent here *en route* for home, and very many to die in our Hospitals. Since the close of hostilities, we have suffered from a lack of co-operation on the part of the people, from the current impression that our work was ended, and no more funds needed. Hence we have for the last six months labored without that public sympathy so cheering and important in fulfilling the trust committed to our care.

We felt that the same principles of benevolence and patriotism which called the Christian Commission into existence, demanded a continuance of its work, while two hundred thousand veteran troops were retained in the field, and in this decision we have been sustained by the other branches of the Commission.

The Sanitary Commission found, when too late, that they had been premature in closing, but they may have been solaced by the view which the Secretary of the Illinois State Sanitary Commission expressed to the Ladies' Aid Society of Quincy. "In leaving the field we felt that there remained the Christian Commission, who possessed the entire confidence of the country, and would bring all their resources to the great work of supplying the soldiers till they were finally mustered out."

The officers of the Illinois State Sanitary Commission voted us two thousand dollars. The "Needle Pickets," and "The Good Samaritans" of Quincy, gave each five hundred dollars. The ladies of Alton raised over one thousand dollars. The ladies of Muscatine, Iowa City and Davenport, responded generously to our appeals, with cash and sanitary stores for our soldiers in Texas and on the Plains.

Wherever our agent presented the wants of men still in the field, hearty and cordial aid was extended.

Early last spring it was seen that a large force would be sent to

our Western Plains, extending over ten Territories. The Committee at once determined to follow these thirty thousand men with delegates and stores. Rev. W. J. Gladwin, was placed at Fort Leavenworth, as Field Agent. This became the base of operations, from which were sent supplies to the men, hundreds of miles west.

At Fort Leavenworth a chapel-tent was erected, and opened for daily services. Rooms were given and fitted up by the government for our stores and delegates' quarters. Soldiers going out were furnished with Testaments, reading matter and stationery; while returning regiments gratefully received the vegetables which proved so efficacious in arresting and relieving scurvy.

Hundreds during the summer months brought into the Hospitals, gave a large field of labor, and vast numbers of soldiers in camp were in reach of the Commission at the Fort, thus affording a large work for willing hearts and hands.

A wonderful work of grace has crowned this enterprise. Many hundreds have joined the Temperance League, and become members also of the Church Union, giving good evidence of a change of heart and life.

The history of the Mission at Fort Leavenworth during the past nine months would make one of the most interesting chapters of the Christian Commission work.

The Illinois troops reporting at Camp Butler, seven miles from Springfield, for mustering out, and the sick from Camp Douglas, sent to the same place, rendered it important to station a delegate at that point. Much good has been the result, and the Rev. Mr. Branch and the Rev. Mr. Shearer, have been blessed in their labors both for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the men. There were at times over two thousand men either waiting to be mustered out, or sick in Hospitals here.

A very important work at Cairo, supported by the Peoria Branch, and conducted under their general supervision, has continued through the year.

Our chapel and commodious reading-room have given welcome to thousands who had no other alternative between the streets and the drinking saloons, as a place of resort during the many hours of waiting transportation.

The meal tickets bearing the stamp of the Commission, and

good for a warm dinner at hotels, on any line of road running out of Cairo, have saved many soldiers from hunger.

Probably in no exposure of camp or campaign, is a soldier more likely to be found destitute, than when passing by boat or rail to or from his command.

It is the "poverty of our armed men," and the "want of one that travelleth" combined. An illustration of the fitness of such a mode of relief is found in a telegram from a landlord at Centralia: That fifty soldiers had failed to get tickets in passing Cairo, and were cold, hungry and penniless. The Cairo Commission by the reply "feed them," made this squad as comfortable and thankful as it had thousands of other soldiers by its meal tickets.

The field agent has since met at their own homes some of those who received this benefaction, and has found proof of grateful hearts in ready contributions for soldiers still under arms. The labors at Cairo will not be finished so long as troops remain in Texas and the south-west.

Memphis continued in the charge of Rev. T. G. Ensign, until August 1st, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. O. Tade, who remained until the closing of that station, October 1st.

This post has been for more than three years one of great interest and success, and, in addition to the work of delegates, has been greatly aided by ladies, both in visiting the sick and superintending the special diet kitchen.

Vicksburg became a peculiar point of interest last spring, when over eight thousand men from rebel prisons were detained here some weeks for exchange.

Poor, wretched, naked, in need of all things, they elicited the warmest sympathies of a soldier-loving people. In addition to the stores furnished by our Commission, ladies came from Quincy, Illinois, to distribute personally six tons of stores, and although to many aid came too late, and hundreds reached the Hospitals in St. Louis only to die, multitudes were cheered and blessed, not only by the bodily comforts received, but by the kind and sympathizing words of welcome which met them on every hand. Paper was given them, and here the first letters written to home friends for many long months, afforded them a new pleasure, while a few days later at Benton Barracks, could be seen men gathered in groups sending

their replies—some bringing joy, and others grief at news of death by the fireside.

It was a scene to melt the hardest heart, and to impress more vividly than ever the price of our new-bought liberty. Natchez continuing to be occupied by our delegates, an important work has been done in the Hospitals, and the colored troops stationed here would have received little attention, if our Commission had been closed.

So far, the interior, with its twenty thousand troops in the State, presented an open field. At that point there were at one time, during the service, nine hundred sick in Hospitals, while Pine Bluff, Durall's Bluff and Fort Smith, likewise demanded our attention. It was a very sickly and trying season for all, but the delegates remained at this point, and were abundantly blessed for their self-denying toil and suffering.

Many hundreds date the commencement of their new spiritual life to the fidelity of delegates at Little Rock. A diet kitchen, under the direction of Mrs. Bonney and Miss Edwards, has been in full operation during the year.

Texas, during the summer, fall and winter, has demanded heavy expenditures of money, stores and delegates. From thirty to fifty thousand men wanted to know, after they reached that distant point, one thousand five hundred miles further from home, if they were to be forsaken by both Sanitary and Christian Commissions. They went reluctantly, hoping to be mustered out. They found the Rio Grande utterly destitute of fruits and vegetables. The interior of the State was little better. Many of them had the scurvy when they left the eastern army. Their rations were often wormy bread three years old, and tainted meat. No money with which to purchase necessary food—scurvy made fearful ravages. Officers and chaplains wrote most urgently for help, and the appeals were quickly answered by our Commission. Two delegates with a large supply of hospital stores, generously furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission, went down while the army was in the midst of the sickly season. Officers and men were suffering from Dungue or Backbone fever.

At New Orleans, Rev. Mr. Orange and his good wife, received a cordial welcome from Gen. Sheridan, and were furnished transportation by land and water to the army scattered over the vast regions

of Texas, from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Thus, stores brought to camp were like cold water to thirsty souls. The sick in the Hospital had nothing but army rations for well men. Reading matter was received with the greatest eagerness. Their chapel tent was well attended by those who had learned to appreciate such spiritual privileges in former campaigns. Soon after this, we secured the services of John A. Cole, former General Field Agent in the Eastern army, and from that time he has been managing the work in Texas, under the direction of our Committee.

No effort of the Christian Commission during the war has been more needed, or made a happier impression on our soldiers. Little has been said or published, but much has been done and duly appreciated by men so far removed from home. A good work of grace has followed this care for their bodies. The work in Texas will be continued by this Branch of the Commission so long as it is demanded by the presence of troops.

One element of usefulness brought into service, has been the employment of earnest Christian ladies, in our reading rooms in this city, at Fort Leavenworth, Benton Barracks, Jefferson Barracks, Memphis and Little Rock, and also in the hospitals and barracks at these stations.

Their labors were most efficient and satisfactory, and often have they been able to reach the heart and conscience when the efforts of others failed.

Their record is on high, but a vast number of our returned prisoners—our veteran soldiers, and thousands still in the service will not soon forget such names as the Misses McBeth, Burnell, Turner, Hone, Bissell, Lorings, Pinney, Tannehill, Kimball, Sprague, Bernard, Hardenbrook, Mrs. Orange, and Mrs. Searles.

The idea of a diet kitchen in a large hospital, controlled by the surgeon as a part of his hospital, and mainly supplied by the hospital fund, but superintended by Christian ladies, sent and supported by the Commission, and specially charged to put the touch and taste of home in each dish prepared for a sick man, was a happy conception.

It was the gospel of suitable food, and has saved life and brought new heart to many a weary cot. This work was under the general superintendence of Mrs. A. Wittenmyer, assisted in this department by Miss Mary Shelton and Miss Goodale, who, by their su-

pervision and personal labors, endeavored to prepare food at the hospitals as nearly like home comforts as possible. It was a gospel of suitable food for sick men, which has saved many valuable lives, and relieved a vast amount of suffering.

The work at the rooms, in St. Louis, will hardly be conceived, from the statement that nearly $100,000, in cash, and about the same amount, in stores, was received and disbursed during the year. The Committee met every Monday evening, but were ever ready to respond to the frequent calls by the Secretary and Agent, J. H. Parsons, Esq., to consult, in extra meetings, for the best advancement of the work.

The mere financial and business department was equal to a first-class business house, demanding five or six assistants; all the members of this Committee were business men, yet no important measure suffered for the want of their personal attention. The rooms, for months together, were crowded, from morning till night, by soldiers, with their various wants. Daily prayer-meetings were held, letters, from three to five thousand per week, were written, library books loaned, and, as far as possible, each desire answered.

A tabular view of the receipts, and some of the more common disbursements from this office, will give a clearer idea of the daily round of duty:

DISTRIBUTIONS.

Bibles,	6,748
Testaments,	89,649
Hymn Books,	64,542
Knapsack Books	460,086
Bound Volumes,	28,743
Magazines,	8,935
Pages Tracts,	808,703
Papers,	1,024,912
Letter Paper (sheets,)	619,040
Envelopes,	644,000
Pickles (bbls,)	300
Onions, "	500
Potatoes, "	300
Fruit (cans,)	2,000
Condensed Milk (cans,)	1,200
Eggs (doz.,)	300

Handkerchiefs,	15,000
Towels,	6,000
House-wives,	20,000

Cash receipts, during the year, were	$84,560 55
Received from the Central and Branch offices,	48,345 00
Collected by this Branch,	35,248 55

Of this latter, nearly $12,000 were collected by the Field Agent, Rev. S. Wells, in less than nine months' service.

The work at Benton Barracks, in this city, superintended by Rev. A. G. McCormick, has been one of unusual interest and success.

Meetings could not be held in the chapel for want of room. One to two thousand gathered in the open air for night preaching, and hundreds rose for prayers. In the morning they came to the reading-room to ask how to be saved. Many, very many, gave good evidence of true conversion.

The lady "helpers," and all the delegates, will ever remember those pleasant and profitable meetings at Benton Barracks, continued for more than six months.

At Jefferson and Scofield Barracks, the delegates received evident tokens of the Divine blessing.

Our relations have been most pleasant with the Western Sanitary Commission, of this city, during the war. Within the last year they have placed in our hands many thousand dollars worth of stores for distribution in the field.

The St. Louis Ladies' Union Aid Society has co-operated most heartily with us in all good work for soldiers.

The railroads have given free passes for our delegates; the river steamers have carried at half fare; and Adams Express Company and the Western and American, have contributed most generously in free freight for our packages.

To the Government officials of this city, and to the commanders at Leavenworth, Memphis, Little Rock, Vicksburg, and in Texas, we desire to express our profound gratitude for continued and very important official countenance and aid.

How long the Branch will continue its labors, for the welfare of the soldiers now in the field, will be left to the providence of God, and an ability to meet current expenses. It is a matter of devout

thanksgiving to God, that thus far we have not been compelled to give up any important point or station where our labors were needed.

We are grateful to the God of nations, that we have seen, during this year, the triumphant close of the fearful struggle; but especially that we have been able to lay this feeble tribute of our deep interest in our soldiers, and devotion to our Government, on the altar of Christ and country.

By order of the Committee.

SHEPHARD WELLS, *Field Agent.*

Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific.

EXTRACTS FROM THEIR REPORT, RENDERED AT PUBLIC MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 7, 1865.

A year ago, to-day, a small band of ladies met together in this city, to listen to the appeals made in behalf of the suffering soldiers and sailors of our army and navy, by the Rev. Dr. Patterson and Rev. Mr. Mingins.

The question was asked, what can the women of California do for those men who are giving up all to save our country? Immediately and most nobly was that appeal responded to: the question was not asked in vain; in a very few weeks, a "Fair" was gotten up, which, for size, beauty and elegance, compared most favorably with the fairs held in the larger cities of the East, and brought into the treasury $26,096 in gold.

During that fair, the ladies of California proved to every one that such a work could be gotten up and carried out successfully, producing much good, yet free from all objectionable features.

The Commission now numbers 260 members—50 life, 39 honorary, 162 annual, and 3 associate members.

Sixteen Commissions have been organized on the Coast, which are auxiliary to the "Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific," from which we have received regular monthly contributions.

Most of the towns are very small, and in bearing this in mind, one cannot but feel more admiration for the untiring devotion, energy and perseverance of the women of California.

Total amount of gold coin remitted to the United States Christian Commission, - - - - - - $34,180 00
Amount of legal tender notes, - - - - - 613 25

We have received acknowledgments from Mr. Stuart of the receipt of $25,000 in gold coin, which realized $54,200 in currency. We have not, as yet, received acknowledgments of the net proceeds of our other remittances. Cash balance on hand, $1,208 42.

Our acknowledgments are due to the *Bulletin*, *Alta*, *Call* and *Flag* newspapers, for donations of bills, and to Messrs. Towne & Bacon for valuable printing, for which no charge was made.

An important and pleasant feature of our organization has been the formation of a Youths' Christian Commission. This has met with decided success throughout the coast. The little ones seem delighted with their certificates of membership, which they treasure with pride, exhibiting them as a proof that their little hands and hearts were interested in the suffering soldiers, and that they had done what they could for their country.

We have received instructions from the United States Christian Commission to disband our organization. There is no longer a necessity to tax the generosity of our people. The terrible war, which has produced so much suffering and desolated so many homes, is over. We thank God that this is so; we rejoice over the peace and prosperity which is again promised our people.

MARY E. KEENEY, *President.*

Committee for Western New York—Buffalo.

This Branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized in the spring of 1864, for the purpose of developing more fully the resources of Western New York and North-western Pennsylvania.

The entire amount of cash and supplies received by this Branch, and reported to it by auxiliaries, reaches the sum of $115,725 11.

It has been a privilege for the officers who have, with one exception, furnished their time and services gratuitously, to labor in this department, in co-operation with others, for the good of the noble men who have perilled life in our behalf.

We have worked in harmony and co-operation with the Ladies' Christian Commission of Buffalo. Our supplies, when received, were immediately passed into their hands to assort, and repack, if necessary, and send to the field. Justice requires us to say we are largely indebted to their earnest, patient and long-continued labors for the success realized in Western New York. Many of these ladies have spent a large part of their time, month after month, in patient toil for the relief of the suffering soldier. We commend to the reader's attention their report, found in the following pages.

We have employed, for brief periods, three agents, who have canvassed portions of the territory embraced in this Branch. During the last summer, Rev. C. P. Lyford, who had had large experience in army life, spent a few weeks lecturing in some of the principal towns and cities. Early in the spring, we also employed Rev. G. De La Matyr and Rev. P. H. Burghardt. These agents labored efficiently until Lee's surrender, when their services were no longer demanded. We are under many obligations to various parties and corporations, for favors which have contributed largely to our success. The American and United States Express Companies, the Merchants' Despatch, and the Buffalo and State Line Railroad, have generously carried our supplies to the field, and the Western Union Telegraph Company has uniformly sent and received our messages, free of charge. We are also under obligations to the New York Central Railroad, for passes furnished delegates and agents. The Erie Railway passed our delegates at half-fare. And finally, we are indebted to the great Christian public in this field, in whose behalf we have acted, for the confidence reposed in us, and the privilege afforded us, of co-operating in a work which has been crowned by Providence with such glorious success. We are proud of the history of the Christian Commission, and feel honored with the privilege of contributing something of our time and services in its behalf. We congratulate our co-laborers on the honorable termination of so terrible a war. The necessity of maintaining our organization ceases with the return of peace.

It will be seen that the Treasurer reports a balance now in bank. This amount is subject to the order of the Central office, and with

its transmission our books will be balanced, and our work, in connection with the Christian Commission, ended.

F. GRIDLEY, *Treasurer.*

S. HUNT, *Secretary.*

JOHN D. HILL,
I. S. SPENCER,
R. B. CLAXTON,
S. S. JEWETT,
P. P. PRATT,
Executive Committee.

Ladies' Christian Commission, of Buffalo.

The Ladies' Christian Commission, of Buffalo, present this, their second annual and final Report, to those who have so generously sustained them in their work.

Although our work, at times, has been somewhat severe, and has interfered with other and pressing duties, yet we have regarded it as a privilege, instead of a burden, to furnish such aid and comfort to our sons and brothers as would lessen the terrible suffering of the battle-field and hospital. We have endeavored to merit the confidence which the public in Western New York have reposed in us.

While our treasuries have been kept distinct, we have worked in harmony with the Branch of the Christian Commission for Western New York, in receiving and shipping supplies to the field. In this respect our work has been one.

We wish to acknowledge our obligations to the American and United States Express Companies, and Merchants' Despatch, for their generosity and kindness in carrying our supplies to the field, free of charge. They have also taken the garments, cut by us, to our auxiliary societies, and returned them, when made, without any expense to us. This generosity has contributed largely to our success.

Besides the work of sending supplies to our soldiers, we have had the privilege of aiding in other departments. We have sent from our rooms, and forwarded from other societies, large quantities of clothing for white refugees, by which much suffering has been relieved.

In November, 1864, we sent about two thousand pounds of poultry, pies, cake, pickles, apples and jellies, for a thanksgiving dinner, to some of our famished prisoners, just arrived at Annapolis, Md.

We tender our sincere thanks to the many societies which have aided us in this noble work. Among the most prominent and successful of our auxiliaries, we may name the Soldiers' Aid Society, of Syracuse, and the Ladies' Christian Commission, of Lockport; the latter has not only contributed largely of its own services and means, but has been a channel through which many contributions from Niagara county were sent to us. Others have doubtless worked as faithfully in more limited circles, and all are worthy of commendation.

We are thankful, both to a kind Providence and our brave soldiers, that the long and bloody war is now ended. The public will decide with what success our work has been accomplished.

MRS. F. GRIDLEY,
MRS. J. D. SAWYER,
MRS. J. B. PARKE,
Committee.

Report of the Indiana Branch, United States Christian Commission.

The record of this branch, since our last report, embraces only about one-half of the year 1865, as our work was brought to a close on the 20th of July. The meeting of western branches, held in this city, near the close of last year, had a most favorable influence in our city and State. The design of the organization became more widely known and better understood. As a consequence, contributions of money, and especially of stores, through the local Aid Societies came in more freely.

OUR HOME FIELD—Has been a most inviting one. Since the commencement of the war, our city, the Head-Quarters for all State military deposits and its environs, has been like one great encampment.

Here soldiers have been mustered in, drilled, equipped, and sent forward to the field. Here they reported when coming home on furlough, and once more they came dusty and weary, and full of

honors to lay down their arms and receive the approval of the Executive, and the smiles and thanks of grateful citizens. We mention with pleasure the fact that the chaplains of many of these regiments, temporarily here, have shown much interest in our work, and have availed themselves of facilities for doing good offered by the Commission. Among these we would name Rev. L. H. Jameson, who, after leaving his own regiment in consequence of ill health, was, for a short time, chaplain to the Veteran Reserves, at Camp Burnside, and Chaplain Williams of the Forty-Third Indiana stationed at the same quarters. Through the efforts of the former the Commission were enabled to erect a very neat chapel, and distribute much valuable reading. The latter, in addition to Sabbath services for many months, held meetings almost every evening. These were largely attended, and resulted in many tokens of divine favor.

CAMP CARRINGTON.—At this point Rev. James McCoy was employed by the Commission during the closing months of 1864. He continued till about the last of January, 1865, when, in consequence of exposure in the diligent discharge of his duties, he was suddenly smitten down and called to his reward. In personal intercourse with the men, and preaching the Word of Life, he took great delight in pointing them to the Saviour of sinners. As a most faithful Christian, we pay this brief tribute to his memory.

Rev. William Wilson, was in the service of the Commission some five weeks. By his kind, genial manner, and earnest Christian spirit, he rendered himself highly acceptable to the soldiers and the Commission.

Rev. Francis P. Monfort, began his labors last year, and continued till our work closed in the summer. His experience as a delegate of this branch in the army of the Potomac; his fondness for the work, and his spirit of adaptation to the wants of the men, gave him ready access to them and great influence over them. We cannot in this brief space enumerate these labors, nor can we fully realize their value.

Some attention has been bestowed upon *The Soldier's Home*, established as a place of rest and refreshment for soldiers *in transitu*, and for those temporarily unfit for active labor; also upon *Elkin Barracks*, the head-quarters of the Provost Guard, and the *City Hospital*. This part of the home field has not properly come within

the sphere of the Commission, as it has been in special charge of Rev. Mr. Eddy, the worthy chaplain of this post, who has most heartily co-operated in all our work.

Repeated applications were made directly to the Secretary of War for access to the prisoners at *Camp Morton*, but without success, until just previously to their release in the spring, we were permitted to supply them with Testaments.

Some *Libraries*, furnished by our Commission were placed in our *City Hospital*, Soldier's Home, Camps. Carrington and Burnside, and Ekin Barracks. The Hospitals at Madison, Jeffersonville and New Albany, were aided in fitting their chapels as places of worship, and with the one at Evansville were provided with stationery. It has been our aim to supply all the troops coming here with the Word of God. This we have been enabled to do through the liberality of the Female Bible Society of this city. The great demand for reading, we have been able in some degree to meet by the papers and small books generously sent us from the Central office, and occasionally from the branch at Cincinnati, together with those provided with our own funds. Our distribution of writing paper and envelopes has been large. No gifts have been more acceptable to the soldier. Clothing and other necessary articles have also been generously given.

The rooms of the Commission were daily visited by soldiers, some to get clean shirts, towels or socks; some for books or papers, or to write letters to their friends. Most of the aid rendered to points beyond our own State, has been within the field assigned us, the department of the Cumberland. Supplies have chiefly gone to Louisville, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Small quantities to St. Louis, Arkansas, Vicksburg and Texas. From the beginning of the year till we closed in July, we distributed eleven thousand *Testaments*, nearly twenty-five thousand *books* of other kinds; twenty thousand *papers* and *pamphlets*, one hundred and seventy-five reams of *paper*, fifty-four thousand *envelopes*, collected nearly ten thousand dollars in cash, more than one hundred and fifty boxes of stores, estimated at a value of thirteen thousand dollars; distributed five hundred boxes of stores, and sent to the field eleven delegates. Having previously depended upon appeals through the press, and the efforts of returned delegates in the collection of *money* and *stores*, we wished to employ more direct, and as we hoped ef-

ficient means for this object. We therefore sent forth in this work Revs. Hiram Gillmore and W. W. Snyder. These brethren succeeded in gathering funds and supplies from many sources, and in awakening new life in the cause by the formation of Ladies' Christian Commissions. About fifty auxiliaries were formed, many of these began quite early to aid us, and all were preparing to do so with new zeal, when the prospect of peace dawned upon our land. The feeling prevailed at once among the people, that our work was done, and from the cessation of hostilities, our receipts began to diminish.

Our friends in their joy did not reflect that even then, our hospitals were crowded with sufferers, and that months must elapse before the soldiers could return. Unable to send supplies to distant points, we continued our home efforts as long as seemed necessary. We might add much, gathered from our home experience, from the reports of our delegates, and the letters of soldiers in testimony of the priceless value of these Christian labors: myriad voices may speak their praise, but their full results eternity alone can reveal.

We desire in closing, most devoutly to render thanks to Him who prompted the hearts of the people to this noble charity. We willingly record the cheerful and harmonious labors of this branch of the Commission.

We would also express our grateful acknowledgments to the kind friends here and throughout the State, who have made us the medium of their liberal offerings to the soldiers; to the gentlemen of the press, that have given us the use of their columns, to the express and railroad companies that have favored us with transportation, and trust that they rejoice with us in having contributed something to the comfort and welfare of the brave men who perilled their life and limb for the salvation of their country.

In behalf of the Commission,

CHARLES N. TODD,
Corresponding Secretary.

Report of the New York Branch of the Christian Commission.

At the opening of the year 1865, The New York Branch of the Christian Commission found the work upon its hands vastly in-

creased. General Sherman, with his veteran legions, was within the field assigned to its operations. Upon reaching the seaboard, his army was met by delegates with stores of every description, to supply the necessities of the men. His rapid movements through the Carolinas devolved upon the Commission the necessity of the utmost promptness and energy of action. Providentially, the delegates on the ground had been long in the service of the Commission, and were well qualified to meet the emergency. Their plans were maturely formed, and every thing was carried into effect in the most systematic manner.

Notwithstanding the greatly increased demands, and the limited field of supplies, the contributions of money and of stores were such as to enable the Committee at all times to meet promptly the necessities of the case. It should be recorded as an evidence of God's favor, that the Committee were never prevented from doing what seemed desirable, for the want of means.

During the year, or until the close of the war, the forts, camps, naval and military hospitals in New York, and in the surrounding neighborhoods and towns, and the ships of war with their transports, leaving the Navy Yard of Brooklyn, were regularly visited, and systematically supplied with reading matter, and such other things as were needed.

The general division of the field of operations into distinct departments remained as during the preceding year.

The Department of Eastern Virginia continued under the most faithful, economical and efficient administration of the Rev. E. N. Crane. His long service and large experience eminently fitted him for the labors and responsibilities which were devolved upon him as the agent of that Department. He had a thoroughly trained band of delegates associated with him through whose agency the work was carried on in all parts of the field.

The Department of North Carolina was during the early part of the year under the supervision of the Rev. A. S. Lovell. In the spring, he was succeeded by the Rev. Washington Rodman. As Newbern, Raleigh, Goldsboro', and Wilmington were within this Department, a vast amount of labor was devolved upon the Agent and the delegates. Besides the demands of the armies in the field, there were numerous hospitals crowded with the sick and wounded, needing all kinds of relief. In no part of the field of operations

was more hard work done, and more needed assistance rendered, than in this Department.

The Department of the South remained, till the close of the war, under the care of the Rev. Dwight Spence, to whose good judgment and constant attention the success of the work was largely due.

The Department of the Gulf continued in charge of Dr. J. V. C. Smith. The medical knowledge of Dr. Smith, and his eminent administrative abilities, peculiarly fitted him for his most responsible position. For two years and more he conducted the affairs of his department to the great benefit and comfort of the Military and Naval forces within its limits. He was ably seconded by a corps of twenty or more veteran delegates.

The numerous stations within these several Departments were kept well supplied with Bibles, Testaments, Prayer-books, religious newspapers, and a large and carefully selected assortment of small books and tracts. On an average, some two hundred and forty ships were supplied monthly with reading matter. At times, the number of periodicals sent out from the New York office amounted to from one hundred and sixty thousand to two hundred thousand copies per month. The testimonies to the usefulness of this part of the work have been most abundant and positive.

In the month of June, the war being virtually closed, the Committee gave directions to the several Agents in charge of Departments to bring their operations to a close as rapidly and at as early a day as practicable. These directions were systematically carried out, so that in November the Executive Committee were enabled to report to the General Board that every delegate was withdrawn—every agency closed, and every account settled.

The balance of funds in the treasury was placed in the hands of the Executive Committee, to use for the relief of soldiers and sailors, and their families, and for the temporal and spiritual benefit of those still in the service of their country.

In thus bringing their work to a close, and rendering their final report, the New York Committee would express their profound gratitude to Almighty God for his continued favor and goodness, and for the degree of success with which he has been pleased to crown their efforts.

Committee of Maryland—Report for 1865.

REV. E. P. SMITH, SEC'Y U. S. C. C.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request, the following report of the Committee of Maryland of the U. S. C. C., is prepared. The report covers the year of 1865, from January to January. In September, 1864, the Committee received additional names of several gentlemen of Maryland, and commenced the year as follows:

G. S. Griffith, Esq., Chairman, Baltimore.
Rev. Geo. P. Hayes, Treasurer, "
Rev. J. N. McJilton, D. D., Sec'y, "
Rev. N. Stork, D. D., "
Rev. Isaac P. Cook, "
Chas. W. Ridgely, Esq., "
Rev. R. C. Galbraith, Baltimore Co.
Gideon Bantz, Esq., Frederick City.
Rev. Robert H. Williams, " "
Rev. J. D. Custis, Elkton.
Rev. J. Evans, Hagerstown.
Rev. H. C. Westwood, Ellicott's Mills.
David E. Small, Esq., York, Pa.
Chas. A. Morris, Esq., " "
Rev. G. R. Bent, General Agent, Baltimore.
J. R. Miller, General Field Agent, Harper's Ferry.

At the date of the last report, the hospitals of the district comprising the whole of Maryland, part of Delaware, York in Pennsylvania, and the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, numbered twenty-three. In these, and in the camps and forts around Baltimore, and along the lines of railroad, and among the soldiers and prisoners at Annapolis, and in the valley of the Shenandoah, and in the armies operating against Richmond, have our delegates labored.

DELEGATES.

The number of delegates commissioned by us to labor at these points is twenty-seven. They were principally clergymen of the various evangelical denominations. These gentlemen left their homes and home services, to do the work of relief among their suffering countrymen of the contending armies, not forgetting that

the civil war had brought into sanguinary conflict the citizens of the same States and the brothers of the same families. They performed their Samaritan-like service without inquiring if the sufferer were a soldier of the federal or the rebel army.

In beautiful harmony, the ministers of the different denominations met, and worshipped, and mingled services together over afflicted men. In the performance of their labor, whether of worship, or relief, their denominational associations were unknown. They preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to suffering and dying men. They bound up bleeding wounds. They waited at the bedside of the sick. They administered the consolations of religion to the sick and wounded, without referring to their denomination. Many of these delegates wrought for weeks and months together, without knowing each other's denominational associations, and were instrumental in the salvation of many souls.

ADDRESSES AND SERMONS.

Five thousand, six hundred and twenty addresses and sermons were delivered by our delegates and the volunteer helpers of the Young Men's Association, in the progress of four thousand, four hundred and forty meetings. Many of these meetings were held in the presence of very large congregations. Two and three thousand men have sometimes attended with earnest interest upon the services. That good results have followed these efforts, many proofs have been afforded. Thousands of men who went into the army, either as infidels, or utterly indifferent believers in Christian doctrine, have been converted to an earnest and active Christian life. A large number have been baptized, and partaken of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

In our soldiers' meetings the narratives of converted men have been given, in which God's merciful providence is wonderfully displayed. The man that left his home for army adventure, a swearer, or a drunkard, has been returned to it a devout and sober Christian believer. He has gone home to tell of his almost miraculous escapes from danger, of God's gracious providence in his deliverance and conversion, and to live among his friends and former associates, a standing witness of the power and grace of Almighty God, upon the mind and heart of the infidel and apostate.

LABORERS, OTHER THAN DELEGATES.

Beside our regularly laboring delegates over the wide field of Christian service allotted us, fifty-nine gentlemen have wrought with us in the labors of the hospitals, and among the families of the sufferers at home. This form of our service is in many respects similar to that of delegates amid the army service. It consists in visiting forts, hospitals, camps, and the families of the soldiers. Relief is afforded, as found necessary. Books, tracts, and papers of religious character are distributed. Meetings are held, and religious services performed.

HOSPITAL STORES.

Our agents and delegates in the field and at home have been well supplied with hospital stores. Our efforts in this direction have always been successful. When our resources have seemed to be failing, we have taxed our inventive powers and increased our labors, and in this way have always been able to make the necessary provision. Under the direction and blessing of a kind Providence we have been abundantly favored. The supply called for has always been provided and sent. Like the widow's meal and oil, our supply has never failed. When there was little there was no lack, and when there was an abundant supply there was nothing over.

CHAPELS AND CHAPEL SERVICES.

We have expended a portion of our means in the provision of chapels and chapel tents for religious services at hospitals and in camps. The amount thus used was comparatively small, but great good was accomplished by it. Our part of the expense for these chapels has been generally in the way of supplement and encouragement to expenditure by others. Many meetings for preaching and prayer have been held, and much good has been accomplished that might never have appeared without this help at the right time and place. Many soldiers converted in these chapels have gone home to live Christian lives, or have passed away, rejoicing in the hope of a blissful immortality, leaving the testimony behind them that they were God's children.

BALTIMORE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Allusion has been made in this statement to the services of fifty-nine gentlemen besides the regularly commissioned delegates of the

Commission. These gentlemen were nearly all members of the Baltimore Christian Association. This association has supplied our service with a large number of laborers since its organization in 1861. During the past year they have visited every department of our district, and the field of labor in which we have served beyond it. Although not a part of our organization, the association became an auxiliary in our service, and so continued until the close of the war. They wrought faithfully with our delegates, and without them. Large quantities of stores, and books, and religious papers were distributed by them. Since the war has closed, they find all the work they can do among the families of the soldiers in Baltimore and its vicinity. There was scarcely a battle-field, or camp, or hospital, within the limits of our district, but shared in the faithful labors of these worthy and able co-laborers of the Commission. And we trust there will not be a soldier's home in Baltimore unvisited by them and unblessed with their ministrations.

CLOSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S LABORS.

In accordance with a resolution of the Central organization, our Committee resolved to discontinue its organization in December. The Committee has ceased to exist as an organized body, and another Committee has been appointed to attend to any necessary matters needing attention in the gradual working out of the service. As the Commission that through the war brought Christ to tempted men and relief to human suffering has ceased its labors, the records of the period are full of their sympathies and services. The good they have done may not be told in time. The light of eternity alone can reveal it.

J. N. McJILTON,
Sec'y Md. Com., U. S. Christian Commission.

Report of the Army Committee, Washington, D. C.

The accompanying Reports of Alexandria and Camp Distribution, and this city, will sufficiently set forth what the Commission has attempted, during the past year, at those points.

Besides the regular routine of forwarding supplies to City Point, distributed by hundreds of delegates in the Army of the Potomac, and the ordinary work in Alexandria, at Camps Barry and Distri-

bution, and other places in the vicinity, there were some new features introduced into the work of 1865.

First, that of the Diet Kitchen, under the efficient superintendence of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer. Though a beginning was made the latter part of the previous year, this year the work was greatly improved and extended. We had Diet Kitchens in five of the Washington Hospitals, Finley, Emory, Campbell, Mt. Pleasant and Columbian. From these kitchens, and only from these, rations, as prescribed for each patient by the attending surgeon, were issued to all who were not able to leave their wards and go to the common table. These were all prepared under the direction, and, to some extent, by the hands of the ladies in charge. Whatever was required for the good of the men, in addition to supplies from the Government, by way of clothing and delicacies of various kinds, was freely furnished by the Commission. Thus, besides adding greatly to the comfort of the sick and suffering—giving them the best substitute for home itself—doubtless not a few precious lives were saved. And, in addition to their ministrations to the body, these Christian ladies also visited the men, from cot to cot, cheering them with their presence and sympathy, and conversing with them of Jesus, and of the "rest that remaineth."

Diet Kitchens, on the same plan, were also introduced into the Hospitals in Alexandria. One did good service in the *field*, in the hospital of the Ninth Army Corps, encamped near Georgetown.

Secondly, *Fort Work*. This year we attempted to do, systematically, throughout the extensive lines of fortifications around Washington, on both sides of the Potomac, what had hitherto been left to a few occasional visitations. Providence brought to our hands, at just the right time, a suitable man, Rev. J. C. Kingsley, to take charge of this entire Department, to organize it thoroughly, and keep all the wheels in motion. He was provided with a horse and carriage, and furnished with all the laborers he required. He established stations at all the more important points, at Fairfax Court-House and Vienna, in Va., for regular preaching, and other delegate work, and perfected arrangements for systematic visitation, preaching, distribution of stores, and reading, throughout the chain of Forts on both sides the river. At some points, there were seasons of precious refreshing, from the presence of the Lord, and many indulged hope.

Thirdly, Loan Libraries. The happy thought of this enterprise, for the benefit of the entire army, was reserved for this closing year of the war. We will only say, in this connection, that quite a large number of these choice libraries, (assorted and put up in cases, at Philadelphia, under the direction of Chaplain J. C. Thomas,) were loaned for use in barracks, hospitals and forts in and around Washington. Nothing could be more gratifying than the thankfulness with which they were received, and the eagerness with which they were read, and the palpably happy effects upon the habits and morals of many of the soldiers. We received written and verbal testimonies to this effect. We have seen the eye fill with tears, as men in charge of the stations have reported to us these things.

Fourthly, Work in the *Returned Armies.*

After Grant's and Sherman's victorious legions had returned to Washington, and encamped, the one on the Virginia side, and the other on the Maryland side of the river, to tarry weeks or months, till they could be "mustered out," we found it necessary to re-organize here a system of work similar to what had been in the lines before Richmond and Petersburg. Accordingly, delegates' tents and chapel tents were set up in the several corps. The delegates went to work here just as they had done in the army in winter-quarters, holding preaching services and prayer-meetings, visiting, systematically, through the regiments, brigades, divisions, talking with the men, and supplying them with religious reading and such hospital stores as were needed. Very large quantities of under-clothing were furnished to Gen. Sherman's men, who had worn out every thing in their long march across the country. Also, large supplies of anti-scorbutics, potatoes and onions by the thousand bushels, and hundreds of barrels of cucumber pickles.

Arrangements were made, in connection with our store-room, for giving dinners, daily, to large numbers of soldiers, visiting the city.

Our work is done. Thanks to a merciful Providence, there is no longer need for it. In all departments of our labor, from first to last, for the good of the soldiers, we were cheered by the gratitude of the men, and by many tokens of the divine approbation. We cannot doubt that many—many thousands—some of whom have passed away, and some of whom are in the walks of usefulness upon earth, were led to the Saviour through the Christian en-

deavors which the noble charities of our supporters enabled us to make in behalf of these patriotic and suffering men.

On behalf of the District Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

WM. BALLANTYNE, *Chairman.*

Report of Rev. O. P. Pitcher, Missionary and Distributor for the Commission in Washington.*

During the earlier part of the year throngs of prisoners and deserters from the dwindling ranks of the Rebel army, poured in upon us. After the fall of Richmond, our own victorious troops with tattered banners came crowding our thoroughfares, homeward bound.

These grand events greatly modified this field of missionary labor. They have furnished many favorable opportunities, not only to preach the gospel to thousands of wretched "conscripts" who had fled from treason's banner, but also to welcome our returning conquerors. Give them words of counsel, and books suited to their transition experience from military to civil life, such as "Mustered Out," "Homeward Bound," "Parting Words," &c.

Although the war has closed, and we listen no more to the martial tread of armed men, bound for scenes of conflict; nor witness the long lines of "convalescents" from the great hospitals directing their steps to "Camp Distribution," to rejoin their regiments in the field. And "Forrest Hall" is deserted of "Deserters," and the Central Guard House is thronged no more with delinquent and disorderly soldiers, and Carroll, and the "Old Capitol," have ceased to swarm with bushwhackers, guerrillas, and prisoners of war, and many great camps about the City have been broken up; and the bosom of the Potomac is no more burdened with floating hospitals, bearing from the sanguinary field to our shores, myriads of sick, wounded and dying heroes, requiring immediate attention,—there still remains at Washington an important field for the Missionary operations of the Young Men's Christian Association.

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* It should be kept in mind that this is the report of the labor of a single agent.

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION AND LABOR FOR THE YEAR.

Copies of Scriptures distributed, - - -	1,618
" Religious Papers, distributed, -	40,297
" Soldiers' Knapsack Books, distributed,	4,292
" Hymn Books, distributed, - -	448
" Pamphlets, - - - - - -	154
Pages of Tracts, - - - - - - -	23,668
Number of Religious Services held, - - -	391
Number of those who have given evidence of conversion, or reclamation, or earnestly desiring religion, - - - - - - - - -	188
Number of visits to camp and barracks, for prayer with the sick and dying, (not including services) and for distribution of reading, - - -	629
Miles travelled on foot and by street cars, -	1,296

SUMMARY OF LABOR AND DISTRIBUTION FOR THREE YEARS.

Distributed copies of the Scriptures in various languages,	28,177
" " " Religious Papers, - - -	155,898
" " " Soldiers' Hymn Book, -	11,855
" " " " Knapsack Book, -	14,451
" " " Pamphlets, - - - -	935
" Pages of Tracts, - - - - -	1,773,261
Number of Religious Services held, - - - -	1,498
" " Conversions, and of those reclaimed, or earnestly desiring religion, - - - -	587
" " Visits exclusive of meetings, - -	1,181
" " Miles travelled in the work, - - -	5,240

Exhortations and conversations at the meetings, and in distributions, personal ministrations to the penitent, suffering and dying, the supply of stationery, and hospital stores, and correspondence, &c., for the soldiers with their friends at home, though constituting a most essential and interesting part, cannot be reported by figures.

Of the many encouraging scenes and incidents occurring in connection with this work, permit me to notice the following:

During the autumn, winter and spring of 1864 and 1865, at one of the regular appointments for more than two years, the Mission Chapel built by the Young Men's Christian Association, near Camp

Fry, such was the religious interest among a few Christian soldiers, worshipping there, that a series of meetings was kept up nearly all this time. As the result, brother Otis, the librarian, an active co-laborer in this work, informed me, that not less than eighty-five "Veteran Reserves," soldiers from that camp, (Ninth and Tenth Regiments, Veteran Reserve Corps,) had been converted and reclaimed, and proved faithful.

At the close of a service at the "Soldier's Rest," in October 1863, a soldier of the Twentieth New York Cavalry, came to my side, desiring to speak with me. He led me outside the barracks, and pointing to cards scattered, exclaimed in sorrowful tones, "*There is my damnation!* I have been a very wicked man; a swearer, a drunkard, a gambler, and given to other vices, which I will not name, and I fear there is no hope for me. I was gambling when the meeting commenced, but during the services something touched me, I stopped gambling, and threw away my cards, but I fear there is no hope in my case." While he gazed upon the ground with despairing look, I pointed him to Christ.

To describe all the interesting stages of his experience and future course, would require too extended a chapter for this report, suffice it to say, that he turned away from his sins, confessing them before his comrades, and exhorting them to join him in the service of the Lord, found peace in believing—assisted me two weeks afterwards at Camp Stoneman, and so great was his desire to do good, that he offered ten dollars per month of his private's pay to purchase religious reading for the soldiers. In letters received several months afterwards, he assured me he was still holding fast to the Saviour; that daily prayer-meetings were kept up in his Company; that some six or eight of his companions had enlisted with him in religion; and others were almost persuaded.

Permit me, in closing, to give God the glory for these abundant trophies of His grace, and to express the hope that beyond these the silent influences of the Holy Scriptures, and millions of pages of religious reading distributed among more than two hundred thousand men in our army and navy, among whom I have labored, may ripen into many a sheaf of golden grain to be brought by the gathering angels, in the great harvest, to the garner of the Lord.

O. P. PITCHER,
Missionary Young Men's Christian Association.

Report of Rev. O. C. Thompson, Station Agent at Alexandria, Va.

At the closing of last year's Report of the labors of the Christian Commission at Alexandria, we were in full work at twenty-three hospitals, seventeen forts and camps, and five military prisons.

The military prisons of the town filled up the first month of the year, and gave us a very interesting field of labor. The prisoners were mostly held on charges of desertion, and numbered from three to four thousand. The hardened bounty-jumper, the man who had over-stayed his furlough one day at home, or had been detained by imperfect railroad connection, and the perfectly innocent man, picked up by the detective for the sake of $30, all filed into the prison-barracks together. The condition of these prisoners was deplorably bad. Without a chaplain, with no one to give personal attention to their wants and woes, both guilty and innocent were wretched and desolate. At the request of the Inspector of Prisons, we undertook to stand "next friend" to these outcasts. Their greatest want was that of communication with their friends at home. Some of them were mere boys, who should have been at home under their mother's care.

We were pained to see how large a proportion of these were sons of widows. Many of them were out of respectable families, and some the sons of ministers of the gospel.

When, by paper and pencil, postage-stamps, and often by writing ourselves, we put them in communication with their friends, the return letters brought back to us a shower of blessings. Home-packages for the prisoners began to pour in, and the inquiries and suggestions, and griefs and thanksgivings innumerable, from the distant parents and brothers and wives of these men, made a portfolio of correspondence full of touching interest.

We held divine service in each of the eighteen wards every Sabbath, and distributed religious periodicals every week, in addition to the daily labor of one delegate constantly at work in the prisons. Happy results were manifest, the truths of the gospel came to these men as they never came before. An incident will best illustrate. The last week of our labor in Alexandria, a discharged prisoner, from the "slave pen," came into our rooms to inquire for the man who preached in the "pen" the day before. This soldier was rejoicing in a new hope of forgiveness. "The light had come to

him," he said, during that sermon. "One of your delegates gave me a little book, entitled 'Come to Jesus.' I read it, and re-read it, and could not stop reading it; and then that man came and preached so good! Oh! I thank God that I was put into that horrible place. I was innocent of any charge brought against me, yet this was the way by which I was to be blessed. God meant it for good, and I hope, from the bottom of my heart, He will bless the Christian Commission, as He has blessed me."

A young man, from Andover Theological Seminary, who labored with us in 1864, came out again in 1865, and went to the front, at Petersburg, where he was arrested by a soldier's inquiry, "Do you know me?" "No." "I remember you very well; you preached to us in the prison at Alexandria, last year, and in that preaching my eyes were opened to see the Saviour."

The delegate inquired of his comrade, about the soldier's conduct, and found he was a devoted Christian, holding prayer-meetings often with his fellow-soldiers.

The hospitals were the special field of labor for the Commission at Alexandria. We endeavored to reach every patient once a day, and sometimes twice. The good accomplished in this work can never be told, on this side of the eternal world. To many a dying soldier these acts of Christian sympathy were the last kind tokens of friendship bestowed. Many, who left the hospitals to join their regiments at the front, or the society of their friends at home, feel, and have gratefully acknowledged the timely aid furnished by our delegates, without which they too, as they declare, would have filled a soldier's grave in Alexandria Cemetery. The number of conversions in the hospitals is worthy of notice. Some of the delegates were cheered by being permitted to report ten, and, in one instance, fifteen definite cases of hopeful conversion during their six weeks' labor. In June, Samuel Worelen, a patient in Sickles' Hospital, was led into conversation with a delegate, respecting his condition as a sinner before God. He became greatly agitated and asked the delegate to pray for him, and to pray then. His sins and their consequences, seemed to stare him in the face. He prayed for himself, crying aloud, "O God, have mercy upon me, a wicked, lost sinner!" He cried out so loudly, and in such agony, that he drew to his bedside a large number from the other wards. It was a heart-rending scene. But all at once he ceased crying

for mercy and shouted, "Glory to God! Glory! Glory! Blessed Jesus, O how precious you are! How full of love and compassion! Saved by Jesus! Jesus, how precious! Lovely, lovely!" His look of fear and shame had given place to radiant smiles. He was transfigured before his attendants. The light, into which he came in a twinkling, was as marvellous as the previous darkness had been dreadful. No one would have supposed it in his power to put into language such exultations of joy. He soon commenced praying for his mother and brothers at home, with strong importunity, and seemed to come into rest, as he had in the prayer for his own forgiveness, and the delegate left him calm and full of peace.

During the next interview, the same day, he asked the delegate to pray with him, engaging in the prayer with great earnestness, uttering frequent responses.

Soon after, he fell into a gentle slumber. The next morning, when the delegate called, he learned that the happy spirit had taken its flight, leaving earth in the full triumph of the Christian's faith.

This remarkable conversion produced a deep impression on all who witnessed it, and was the theme of conversation at the Hospital for many days.

About the commencement of the present year, the *Soldier's Rest*, in Alexandria, became the Camp of Distribution for the Army of the Potomac, opening a new and extensive field of labor.

Here we held divine service every evening, and twice on the Sabbath, when the strength of delegates would permit.

On the return of troops from the "front," after the close of the Rebellion, the hill-tops and valleys, in our vicinity, were literally covered with our brave boys. These we endeavored to reach, as far as was in our power, and soon the work became so increased, that a large part of the power and labor of the Christian Commission was concentrated at this point.

The number of delegates who worked with us during the time I was in Alexandria, was one hundred and fifty, most of whom labored their full six weeks. With very few exceptions, they evinced a deep sense of their responsibility, and great devotion to their work.

They came from all our northern evangelical churches, and yet so perfectly were they *one*, that frequently their whole term of ser-

vice would pass without it being known to what denomination they belonged.

Throughout our entire work, we enjoyed the approbation of the surgeons of hospitals, officers in the army, and keepers of the prisons.

The building occupied by the Commission here, was without expense to us.

By the direction of the District Committee, at Washington, we closed our Station on the 21st of August, 1865. The troops had been mostly discharged, and had gone to their homes in the North. The prisoners had been tried and acquitted, or sent to punishment elsewhere. The hospitals were closed with one exception, where less than one hundred patients remained.

Thus closed our department in the labor of ameliorating the sufferings of the heroic defenders of our country in the great rebellion. We would join with all the noble band of our delegates, and with the multitudes of brave soldiers on earth and in heaven, to praise God for putting it into the hearts of His people to establish and sustain the United States Christian Commission.

Camp Distribution, near Alexandria, Virginia.

[This report is furnished by Mrs. Rev. J. P. Fisher, the wife and devoted assistant of our lamented brother, the agent in charge of the Commission work at the camp. No other one had a larger part in that blessed work than Mrs. F., a part which she has succeeded in keeping almost entirely out of sight in this sketch. Mention of Mr. Fisher's death is made at the close of this report.]

The work of the United States Christian Commission at Camp Distribution, embraced within its limits Forts Scott, Albany, Camp Casey, (for Colored troops,) Forts Richardson, Berry, Barnard, Reynolds, Battery Garache, and Fort Ward. The six first-named forts, were regular preaching places for the Sabbath, as were also the others, when the preaching force would admit. All were visited during the week with papers, hymn-books and Testaments. As the men at these forts were frequently changed, the number thus reached was very large.

The service in summer was held in open air; in winter, in the barracks, except at Fort Barnard, where the carpenter-shop, nicely swept, and with boards supported on nail-kegs for seats, was for the Sabbath converted into a chapel.

The barracks belonging to these forts, were frequently visited, and soldiers conversed with through the week. Said one to Mr. Fisher, "The people of God will follow us wherever we go." Another, on the way to Fort Ward, in charge of the ordnance, who was a Maltese and a Catholic, would, if passed by, hail the delegate, asking earnestly that he might have the New York Observer, Independent or Messenger.

Delegates returning from service, though weary and heated from summer's sun, or cold and wet from winter's storms, were always refreshed in spirit; and with faces a-glow with pleasure, declared each one, that they had found the most gentlemanly soldiers, the most attentive congregations, the best singing, the warmest thanks, the most cordial invitations to come again.

Camp Distribution was guarded by a regiment of Veteran Reserves. In the camp of the Reserves the Christian Commission had a chapel-tent, where preaching service was held always three evenings in a week, and when practicable, every evening. After preaching, came the prayer-meeting. The work of the Lord at this tent was progressive, persons frequently rising for prayer, and making confessions of penitence and acceptance through atoning blood. Delegates became intensely interested in this regiment and, considered it a field of great promise.

Camp Distribution, itself, comprised fifty barracks. For months, a portion of the barracks, served as a prison for deserters from our own army, and of course was closely guarded. These were objects of special regard, and were furnished with large quantities of stationery, needles, thread and reading. Personal attention given to many who had been arrested on false charges, led to their speedy examination and release.

Early one Sabbath morning, Mr. Fisher, on his way to preach at one of the forts, contrary to his usual method, called at one of these barracks to leave papers. As the guard opened the door, he saw in the further end, a man somewhat advanced in years, with head bowed upon his breast. Stepping in, he exclaimed, "Why, Pilgrim, how came you here?" Instantly the soldier raised his head,

and sadly came forward: "Oh, Mr. Fisher, I was arrested this morning, but indeed I am not a deserter, I belong to a Pennsylvania Regiment. A man with my name and initials, belonging to a New York Regiment, has deserted, and I am arrested." Mr. Fisher went at once to the proper authorities, and identified this man as one who had been in camp nearly three weeks, waiting to be sent to his regiment, and who had daily attended at chapel, taken part in the exercises, and because of his great earnestness and importunity, had been named Pilgrim by his comrades. Upon this representation, Pilgrim was sent to more comfortable quarters for the day, and early next morning released. "Pilgrim" acknowledged God's goodness; said he had been much cast down at the idea of spending God's holy day in such a place, but he had made up his mind to go on self-review, though at first he could scarcely pray.

The camp was one of constant change; sometimes thousands leaving in a week, and their places filled by others also passing, as delegates with haversacks of Testaments and papers sallied out to supply these squads and detachments as they were filing off. I recall one such scene: One Sabbath noon, a regiment was halted in front of our rooms. One of the delegates just returned from preaching went out, and again and again returned for a supply. Dinner being ready, we sat down; quickly we ate, and again he went forth with his supplies. Returning, he said, there is another regiment coming; can't I have something larger for Testaments? Quickly getting a half-bushel basket, we poured the Testaments from the shelf, without stopping to count. The order, "Forward," had already been given, but falling out of rank, eagerly the men caught the book from hand or basket as best they might, those too far in advance calling out, "Take one for me," yes, for me, "and me." Again the basket was filled, and as quickly emptied, many being unable to conceal their disappointment on finding none for them. They were passing, gone, and some were not supplied. As the gray-haired man of sixty-four returned, he lifted up his voice and wept aloud, saying, "I can't help crying, to think I should take time to eat my dinner, and they have gone away hungry for the bread of life."

The interest of the Christian Commission work in the camp centered at the chapel. It would accommodate a thousand worshipers. Here were our prayer-meetings every morning at nine o'clock,

and preaching four evenings in the week, and twice on the Sabbath. The preaching services were preceded by half an hour prayer-meeting. Wednesday evening was given to a temperance meeting, and Saturday evening to a soldier's experience meeting.

The temperance meetings were of great interest and value. An Association was formed by the soldiers themselves early in the war, and kept up through all the changing generations of the camp. Every evening the pledge was offered for signature. Some evenings as many as seventy were added. The roll numbers three thousand seven hundred names. Often the soldiers sent their pledges home; that, as they said, if they fell in battle their friends might know they died sober. The benches under the trees were a favorite resort for soldiers, with paper or book in hand. At early dawn they could be seen absorbed in the perusal of the Word of Life. One morning a young soldier was noticed reading intently, and then bowing his head upon the bench before him. Again he read, tears came down his cheeks, he bowed again. Dear boy, you are thinking of the morning hour of prayer at some far off home altar. Surely a kind word will be in season here. A delegate sits down on the bench, and draws him into conversation. Presently they withdraw, and you hear the voice of prayer. The Word, the blessed memory, the family prayer, perhaps then offering, and the Christian counsel, all blessed of God, have done their work. The young soldier has enlisted again. Meetings were often held under the trees, lighted with lanterns swinging in their branches. Picturesque, solemn and impressive, was the scene. Five hundred, in earnest attention upon the Word, or voices blending in praise. The refrains, "I do believe," "I'm going home," "There'll be no more sorrow there," wafting upon the evening air, arrested attention and attracted careless ones, who gathered around at respectful distance, as if on picket duty, and gradually closed in, scarcely committed, yet wondrously interested. At the close of each service, the invitation to come forward, or rise for prayer, was responded to by from ten to fifty. One evening more than half the congregation rose and went forward, asking the prayers of their comrades. The next day, a soldier writing to his wife, through a delegate's pen, when asked, Any thing more? replied, "Oh, yes, tell her there never was such a meeting as that held last night." I did not know that I would find any Christians in the army, but when I saw two

hundred go forward, I could not believe it. There never was any thing like it before. Tell her we have good religious privileges at this camp. They could not be better." It was the design to close before roll call, but so interested did many become, that they often continued to pray and sing till near midnight. After going to answer to their names and returning, the tattoo, signal for "lights out," was of course obeyed, but the moon and stars, subject only to the King whom they worshipped, still shed their pale light through the branches of the trees. During the fall and winter, the congregation ranged from three to six and seven hundred. Several characteristics deserve mention. They were always punctual, and often waited for the minister before the hour. They were earnestly attentive, no drowsing, or lolling, no standing with cap in hand, in haste for the benediction, but a lingering after it, as if the place were precious. Returning from "chapel tent," we frequently overheard, "I could have staid two hours longer." "Why did they close so early?" "How short it seemed!" The interest increased rather than abated, large numbers rising for prayer. At the prayer and conference meetings, on Saturday evenings, great readiness was manifest. Oftener than otherwise, five or six were rising together to speak, or pray. Forty exercises an hour were not unusual. Prayer was earnest, fervent, penitent, and requests for prayer were many. Here are some of them taken down on the spot.

"I rise to say, not that I desire to be a Christian, but that I *long* to be one. Pray for me."

"I wish to follow my Saviour, I promised my mother I would, but I have not found him. Comrades, pray for me."

"My mother told me to be a good boy, and give my heart to Jesus, but I haven't thought of it. I hope you will pray for me."

"My little daughter gave me this Testament, and begged me to read and pray; her words are ringing in my ear to-night. I wish I was a Christian."

"Somebody said there was a meeting here, and I came down to make fun; but I feel that I'm a great sinner, that there is a reality in religion, and I want to find it. Comrades, I want you to pray for me."

"My brother soldiers, last week I came to meeting, I thought I was sick: I was so heavy I could hardly move. When sinners were

asked to rise for prayer, I felt too sick to get up; but I did rise. That night I found Jesus, and I found it was my sins made me sick and heavy. From the bottom of my heart I can say I am happy. Oh, come to Jesus! I want you all to feel as I feel."

"Three months ago, on that seat, I gave my heart to Jesus. I did love the world, and was happy in its pleasures; but, oh! they are not to be compared to the peace and joy I have felt since I gave my heart to the Saviour. I have been to the front, and when our regiment went into battle, how differently I felt from what I used to when we were fighting. I could not keep the thought out of my mind that I was not ready to die; but now, when the bullets were flying around me, I knew if I fell, I should drop in the arms of Jesus. I would not exchange this hope for worlds."

"I have for years been a Christian, have attended many interesting meetings; but since I have been in this camp, I have enjoyed more of God's presence than ever before. I may safely say that never in my life have I attended meetings before where God seemed to be present every time. I shall soon be mustered out, and go to my family; but I shall leave with regret these precious meetings,—this place of prayer."

"I did not rise for prayer when the invitation was given, but knelt when prayer was offered for others. I feel guilty, and now wish to be included with those who rose. I came to camp last evening, and leave to-morrow morning."

(Prayer was immediately offered for him. After meeting, he came to our quarters for conversation and instruction. The next morning he came to the nine o'clock prayer-meeting, his face glowing in his new love for Christ, and his heart leaping out in thankfulness for the sense of pardon which thrilled his soul. He insisted upon leaving a donation to the Commission—a thank-offering, he said to his Saviour.)

"Soldiers, you do not know what you enjoy. Here you can come and meet with the people of God, and it seems easy to be a Christian; but different influences will surround you at the front. I have been there and know, and so have many of you. Remember this, as a little child in love or in danger clings to his Father's hand, so we must hold on to Jesus;—don't forget, hold on to Jesus."

"My friends, I have been in the service of my country since the war began. Many and many a time in battle when bullets fell so

thick, that it was dangerous for a man to stand up, did I promise the Lord, if he would spare my life, I would give him my heart; but as often I failed to do it. But I bless the Lord, last September, *there* on *that* seat, I gave myself to the Saviour. Since then I have again been in battles, but felt no fear. Oh, what a blessed Saviour to lift us sinners up to His glorious presence! Soldiers, love him; love Him to-day."

"The last words my mother said were, 'My son, if only you were a Christian, I would feel glad to have you go into the army.' Now, my mother is dead. I haven't heard a sermon before to-night since I've been in the army. I want to meet my mother in heaven; will you pray for me?"

"I hear almost all my comrades ascribing their conversion, or their desires to become Christians, to the influence of some friend, a mother or sister. I cannot refer to such. I never heard the voice of my mother in prayer. I never saw any of our family on their knees. When I was thirteen years old, some mysterious influence came over me: I felt I must be a Christian. I yielded to the sweet influence of Jesus, and blessed was the yielding." Sitting down, he sung in clear melting tones, two stanzas, expressive of the joy and peace of a soul washed in the precious blood.

A middle-aged man, with bald head and long white beard, rose, saying, "I want to testify to the great goodness of my God. For years I have been a Christian, but have had no sympathy from my dear wife: she would not kneel with me and my children at the family altar. Bless the good Lord, yesterday I received a letter from her, saying, "Husband, I have learned to pray, and now I can kneel with you and am praying for you.'" Here his voice broke down, tears ran a stream, and he sank upon his seat, while sobs through the house gave evidence of sympathy and interest.

"My friends, last night I came to this house a sinner. I have been a great sinner, going all lengths in sin; but thanks to His name, last night Jesus came to my heart: this morning I'm *so* happy.

"My friends, I have been a very wicked man all my life, and especially since I have been in the army; profane, a gambler and a drunkard, whenever I could get any thing to drink. It is a wonder that God let me live. A week ago I was sent to this camp. I heard

your bell ring, and came to see what was going on, and here I have found Jesus. Bless his holy name. I can't sleep at night, I'm so happy. Last night, when I was singing, some one called out, "Stop your noise in that bunk!" so I got up, and went out under the trees: two or three went with me, and we sang and prayed all night."

"My friends, I left home an infidel, but I left a praying wife. A week ago I received a letter from her, in which she expressed anxiety for the welfare of my soul, and desired to know if I still held to my old views. I wrote an answer to the letter, and in bitter words defended my old position. As I was about to seal the letter, it seemed to me I could not send it. I wrote another, softened down considerably from the first; but when that was done, I could not send it. I commenced another, but such was the power of the Spirit upon my heart, that I fell upon my knees, and begged for forgiveness before God. I could not finish the letter, until I could say to my dear wife that Christ had forgiven my sins. I have been permitted to write to her, that I am to-night rejoicing in *her* Saviour. I feel that I am now prepared for the battle-field, and, if I am ever permitted to return home, I trust I shall go back prepared for that, a better man than when I came into the army."

On the first Sabbath afternoon of every month, the Lord's Supper was administered. Many who intended to unite with the "Christian Brotherhood" on those days, were ordered away before the time came. It was the custom to inquire carefully into the religious experience of those who desired baptism, before administering the ordinance. At one communion service, three soldiers, previously examined, presented themselves for baptism. As they came forward, a young soldier in the congregation, a lad of seventeen years, looked up with surprise, and, seeming to comprehend the scene, instantly rose, and, with a calm, quiet air and firm step, came and stood beside them. Mr. Fisher paused. "Do you wish to be baptized?" "Yes, sir." "Have you never been baptized?" "No, sir." "Why do you wish it?" "Because I love Jesus." "Will baptism save you?" "No, sir." "How long have you loved Jesus?" "Before I came to the army." "Why did you not unite with the Church at home?" "Because I did not do my duty." After further questioning, the delegates expressed their satisfaction, and the delinquent disciple, returning to duty, knelt

with his three comrades to receive the seal of the covenant, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. That fair young face, with large blue eyes and heavy masses of light hair brushed back from the forehead, arrested our attention, as, for nearly a week, his voice, with earnest interest, testified to his heartiness in the Lord's service. We subsequently learned that his father had died, a victim of rebel inhumanity, in a Southern prison, and he was now the sole dependence of his widowed mother and her small children.

At midnight, after one of our communion Sabbaths, there was a knock at our door. Some one wanted to see the Chaplain. (This is the rank always given a delegate.) Mr. Fisher admitted the soldier. He said, at once, "My wife is a Christian woman. I have been a believer in universal salvation, and always contended with her that I loved the Saviour just as much as she did. To-day, when you invited all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ to his table I came, and received the sacrament; but those dreadful words! Oh! those dreadful words that you repeated! 'He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.' They ring in my ear: I can't sleep. Is there mercy for me?" He was assured that, by that death, which had been remembered in the Supper, blood had been shed that cleanseth *from* ALL sin. After prayer and conversation, he returned to his quarters. He gave evidence of conversion, and when ordered forward, a few days after, he came to tell us that Jesus was going with him. On another midnight occasion, there was a knock at our door. A soldier, from the hospital, could not rest in his barrack, and had come to talk about his soul. Mr. Fisher pointed him to the Lamb of God, and prayed with him. He seemed to entertain some hope, and retired. The next day he called, and said that, after he had got back to his bunk, he could not sleep till he made an entire consecration of himself to Christ, and then he was so happy, he did not wish to sleep.

Calls were constant at the rooms; some days several hundred conversations were held with them, but of the details I am ignorant, except of a very few like those given. When the delegates were out in the camp, I frequently attended the library, and always found more than a willingness to converse on the subject of religion. It was a hearty readiness. The question, "Are you a Christian?"

would bring back a soldier who had almost closed the door. The answers, of course, were various. "I used to be, but the army is a hard place to be a Christian in." "I hope I am. I find the army a hard place *not* to be a Christian in." Again:—"O, yes! I think it not right, when I my God not thank. He cares for me; the bullets go through my clothes, and hurt me no. I must mend my sleeve and my blouse in the side and in the front. O, yes; I must love my God, and keep fast to the Christian." "And my heart pull me so heavy sometimes, when de priest say we shall get up in der meeting and say someting, and I not can speak goot English.' "You can say you love Jesus." "O, yes, I have say dat, and keep say dat all time." Another answers:—"I used to attend church and Sabbath-school, but I may as well be honest. For years I have endeavored to banish all religious thoughts from my mind. I have been in Southern prisons for months, and have seen many die. I could but notice the difference. Christians died so easily. I wish I was a Christian." "I hope so. I love to read my Testament. Soldiers don't have much to read; but they think, and can't help thinking." "I once enjoyed religion, but I haven't lived as I ought. I wish I could feel as I once did." "If you have left the Saviour, go to him again." (With a sad smile and shake of the head,) "If I could only feel as I once did." "Is your wife a Christian?" "If ever there was one, she is." After finishing his letter, I followed him to the door, and said:—"Soldier, if you have left Jesus, go back, go right back." The sad look and shake of the head, with—"If I only could feel as I used to!" Said I:—"My dear soldier friend, if your house had burned down, you would not go about, saying, 'My house! my house! I wish I could have a house as I used to!' You would set to work at once to get another." He paused, looked up, and said with a soldier's emphasis:—"That's so; wishing won't do it; I must try something else. I will try to go back to Jesus." Extending his hand in good-by, he said:—"Pray for me, won't you? and I'll pray for myself." He came to our meetings two evenings, penitent and hopeful, and confessed Christ before his comrades. At the close of the second meeting he took me by the hand, and with tears blessed God for this his last prayer-meeting with the Commission. "We go front early in the morning. Don't forget to pray for me. I will pray for myself."

Some soldiers one day brought a Spanish boy, and inquired if there were any thing for him to read. Nobody could talk with him, not even his comrades who brought him in. Mr. Fisher gave him a Spanish Testament. The boy took it, turned it over mechanically, and I thought sadly; but, on opening it, his face brightened, and hastily putting it under his arm, he started for the door. Mr. Fisher calling to him, with disappointed look he turned back. Motioning to read, he opened and read several verses fluently. Upon signifying that he might have it, again he started off, looking neither to the right nor left, and with a pressure upon the book like the miser's grip on his gold.

The hospital connected with camp, with its six hundred patients, afforded a field of labor in which the delegates were deeply interested. But of all this interesting work I can only speak from my own limited experience. Many incidents could be given, but I will mention only one. On one of my visits, after staying over my time to speak to nearly all in the ward, I was hastening out; but the sad, despairing look from a cot I was passing so impressed me, that I returned to his bed. To my inquiry for his state of health, he answered:—"Yes; I'm sick, but I don't care." "Do you love Jesus?" "I don't know as I do." "Have you a wife?" "No; she died on the way to ——." "Children?" "They died, the only two I had." "Parents?" "No, they died in ——; and as for me, I don't care what becomes of me." I said:—"Poor soldier, how sorry I am for you! No friends on earth; no Friend in heaven! You are, indeed, to be pitied. But hear what the Saviour says to you:—'Ye believe in God; *believe* also in *me*. In my Father's house are many mansions.'" I repeated through the sixth verse. Gradually the look of despair gave way; and he said slowly, in low tones:—"That is beautiful; that is *very* beautiful. Where is it?" I told him the chapter. He reached under his pillow for his Testament, found the place, and asked me to mark it. We read it over together, he following every word in his Testament with a wonderful eagerness and interest. "Now, my boy, does not that Saviour love and care for you?" "Yes. I had forgotten Him in my trouble." "Don't you want to come to him, and trust him now?" "I'll try."

Towards the close of the war, when the camp was daily decreasing by the detachments hurried to the front, our congregations

scarcely numbered two hundred. The number rising for prayer grew less. For three nights, four, three, two only rising. What could it mean? Had it been excitement? influence of numbers? Meetings were still solemn—even more so, if there were any change. But had the awakening spirit left? Could it be? Sad was the thought, and caused Mr. Fisher anxious solicitude. He took the test; "All who are on the Lord's side, rise." Oh! joy! nearly all rose! scarce a dozen left. Thanksgivings to our God! "This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working."

The Hospital stores given out from our rooms, have been of great service. We tried to give them economically and freely, and by all means, timely. The special dishes prepared for the sick, in these quarters, preparations of milk, farina, jellies, lemon, &c., &c., taken personally and with Christian kindness to desolate men, have cheered, and with God's blessing, recovered many a man. The pickles, comfort-bags, letters, papers, and dried fruit and blackberry syrup, given from our door direct to needy applicants, would furnish many sketches to friends at home, that would amply repay all the labor and self-denial of gathering and forwarding these supplies.

Towels and handkerchiefs were in great demand. I have seen men obtaining towels, shake them out, hold them at arms-length, rub them on their faces to try them—hold them out again that their eyes might behold a veritable towel—then folding them in self-same folds, find a safe place for them under the blouse.

Upon the return of the army from Richmond, in May, the calls for towels and handkerchiefs were so urgent, that we tore up the pillow-slips to give each man a patch of cloth to wipe away the perspiration.

When the Army of the Potomac had accomplished its work, and marching back from Richmond, halted on the banks of the river, for mustering out, our camps became again the scene of active operations. It was made the head-quarters of the Christian Commission, and the base of their work in the different army corps, encamped around. Our meetings again filled up with our old friends. To many of them, it was almost like getting home. It was affecting to hear them thank God for this Christian Commission Chapel, and tell of the night, and point to the seat where they

were converted; of their feelings then, and their trials and victories since, and of their steadfast purpose to go home to do good service for Christ. And here, too, at this last hour were those seeking to find the Saviour.

Promises for a better life, made in battle or in hospital, or in the parting from home; all, as yet, unfulfilled, would often bring a young man to his feet to ask prayers that he might now become a Christian.

The dear boys, we were glad to see them go home, but it was hard parting. Those scenes at Camp Distribution, of suffering and relief, of penitence, of prayer, of trust and triumphant joy. How many they were! How distinctly they live in memory! How sacred henceforth to one heart, at least, since intertwined with the entire devotion, the last and best service of one who only lived to see the end of the work at the camp; then hastened above, as if to anticipate the great company of soldiers that are to come after, and bless God for the Christian Commission in the army.

ANNA V. S. FISHER.

[The close of this report, by Mrs. Fisher, furnishes a fitting place for mention of the death of her husband, Rev. James P. Fisher.]

He left his work at the camp, late in June, broken down by incessant toil, amid scenes sketched above, most exhausting by their constant strain upon the sympathies. He went, seeking rest: "I want to sleep more than any thing else," he said. He reached his brother-in-law, Rev. R. H. Wallace, in Newburg, N. Y., and unable to go farther towards home, sank and died. Some of the scenes of his last days are touchingly beautiful. Like so many others of the Commission, who have died in the service, when his mind wandered, all his thoughts were on his work for the soldiers. He was preaching, praying, and exhorting. In his lucid intervals, his mind turned at once to Jesus and heaven, a beautiful alternation and combining of a Christian's work and faith. The change from delirium was marked by a desire to get upon his knees and offer prayer. He loved to be on his knees. His supplications had little reference to himself, except for purification from sin. "Last night," said he, in troubled sleep, "was the great night of the feast. Jesus stood and cried, If any man thirst, let him come unto me." In a conscious state, he said to his son: "My son, there is one passage of

scripture I wish to impress on your mind. I adopted it many years ago to die upon: 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth from all sin."' On the last day of his sickness, he called in his sleep, "Frank, ring the bell; it is time for meeting; I am to preach to-night. Is every thing ready? ready for the celebration of his dying love?" And so he passed on, not to the preaching in a rude chapel at Camp Distribution, but to the praise where God is the temple. Every thing was ready, and our dear brother celebrates the dying love.

Pittsburg Army Committee.

In making our final Report, as a branch of the United States Christian Commission, we desire, first of all, to give thanks to God for the increasing favor he has given our cause in the hearts of the people included in the field under our immediate supervision. Their interest in the beneficent work of the Commission has not flagged, but, on the contrary, has deepened and widened to a degree unparalleled in the history of any organization that has ever appealed to the sympathies and activities and purses of this community. The record of the last year of our work is, by far, the proudest record in our history. No words can so eloquently bear testimony to this fact, as the figures in the following table of

*RECEIPTS, WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1865.

No. of Delegates commissioned, - - - - -	40
" of Boxes of Hospital Stores donated and distributed,	12,031
Cash Donations, - - - - - - -	42,896.81
Value of Hospital Stores donated, - - -	423,791.10
Total value, - - - - - - -	466,687.91

These four hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars in cash and comforts, show that the appeals, in behalf of our sick and wounded braves, met with a heartier response, and a nobler and more princely generosity, the fourth year of the war, than the first. They show that the last days of the Christian Commission were its best days; best in the confidence of the loyal North; best in the sympathies and affections of the people's hearts; best in the available resources for prosecuting the Commission's great sanitary and evangelistic work.

* For full summary, see Exhibit Table.

They show the unswerving constancy and the intense loyalty of the people of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia, to the great interests of the country and of God, that were imperilled by the rebellion.

In this connection, I deem it proper, as Chairman of the Pittsburg Committee, to place on permanent record the great debt of obligation which the Committee, and the Commission at large, owe to two of its members, Joseph Albree and W. P. Weyman. It is mainly through their indefatigable and untiring assiduity, through their self-sacrificing and arduous endeavor, that the Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania has been able to make so noble a record. They, in connection with others, forming the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee, and mainly composed of ladies, have not only achieved glorious results for the soldiers, in field and hospital, but have, mean while, fed more than five hundred thousand soldiers on their way through this city to and from the field of strife.

HERRICK JOHNSON,
Chairman Army Committee, Western Pennsylvania, &c.

Loan Library Report, by Rev. J. C. Thomas, General Library Agent.

This will have respect to the *making*, *placing*, and *working* of the Loan Libraries.

The number of the loan libraries was increased to about four hundred. Of these, two hundred and seventy-five were large, and one hundred and twenty-five small. The large cases were three feet square, eight inches deep, and contained one hundred and twenty-five volumes; the small, two feet square, seven inches deep, and contained seventy-five volumes. Two hundred and fifty of the large libraries, and thirty of the small, were made up of new books; twenty-five large libraries, and ninety-five small, of books donated by families and individuals, from household libraries.

The new books, purchased expressly for the libraries, were selected with great care. The publishers, almost without exception, furnishing them at half-price, thus donating, in the difference between twenty-five per cent. discount and the usual wholesale price, the handsome sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars. Gould & Lincoln, Scribner & Co., Ashmead & Evans, and Poe & Hitch-

cock, gave their services as shipping agents; and Adams Express Company transported many of the books free. For an exposition of the Loan Library System, we must refer to the "Third Annual Report," pages 47–49.

At first, the new libraries were supplied only to the hospitals; but when the Rebellion crumbled, they were furnished also to regiments, military posts, forts and war vessels. We have now, on large war vessels, twenty-five libraries; at forts and military posts, fifty. The rest are in regiments and hospitals, with the exception of seventy-five, (most of them small), that have gone out of use. These will be put to service again. About forty are to be sent to permanent forts and military posts, when navigation opens. The remainder are needed for war vessels, now in distant squadrons. There is a place for every library we have, in the regular army and navy. Thus, these treasuries of profit and pleasure, prepared for our soldiers in time of war, will be made a permanent institution, blessing our national defenders, on land and sea, for years to come. Our libraries are under the supervision of Rev. J. C. Thomas, General Librarian, Evanston, Ill., to whom all communications, concerning the United States Christian Commission Loan Libraries, should be addressed. Army and naval officers, desiring a library for their command, are invited to correspond, as above.

It remains to give a few of the many facts in hand, taken from the monthly Reports of chaplains and libraries, of hospitals and regiments and detachments, illustrative of the usefulness of the Loan Libraries.

Hospital 14, Nashville, Tenn., Reports for November, 1864, by Chap. W. Allington—Library 1: Volumes drawn, two hundred and thirty-seven; volumes lost, none. Scarcely a book has been read without some commendation being expressed, and the reader, when asked, has never failed to utter his high appreciation of the entire programme of providing such valuable aids for the improvement of time. The "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation" has especially been appreciated; "Lossing's History of the United States" has been frequently called for; "Irving's Sketches," "Shakspeare's Readings," "Cotta Family," "Goodrich's Library," and "Sargent's Temperance Tales," have afforded intense delight. The library has begotten content, lessened rambling through the city, created devotional feeling, increased the number of our religious

services, and attendance thereon; in short, renders hospital life, to all concerned, more happy, and duty more pleasant.

Library 11: Volumes drawn, two hundred and eighty-nine; volumes lost, none. Marked improvement in the social life and general deportment of the patients and attendants of this hospital, has taken place since the introduction of the libraries. We have more correspondence between soldiers and their friends; more social purity, less boisterous and rude conduct. The mental and moral conditions of the men have been revealed, and not a few scholars, Christians and gentlemen have been found beneath the humble attire and title of "private."

Library 9, Hospital 1, Chattanooga, Tenn., Report for January, 1865, S. J. Hutchinton, Librarian, Volumes drawn, two hundred and ninety-three; volumes lost, three. "Boardman's Higher Life," "Haven's Mental Philosophy," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Smith's Greece," "Liddell's Rome," "Student's Gibbon's Rome," "Student's Hume's England," "Student's France," "Thayer's Pioneer Boy," "Goodrich's Works," and "Sargent's Tales," are most highly appreciated.

Library 20, Hospital 3, Chattanooga, Tenn., Report for December, 1864, by C. Smith, Librarian: Volumes drawn, three hundred and forty-one; volumes lost, none. An Irish Catholic read "Watson's Life of Wesley," and "McDuff's Morning and Night Watches," and expressed himself pleased with them. God only knows the amount of real good which this library is doing here. It will add gems to the Saviour's crown.

Libraries 49 and 50, Brown Hospital, Louisville, Ky., Report for June, 1865, by Chap. F. A. McNeill: Volumes drawn, three hundred and twenty; volumes lost, four. The effect of the library has been salutary in the extreme. The selections are excellent. I have long felt the need of just such an arrangement for our hospitals.

United States Christian Commission Station, Head-quarters 1st Division, 4th Corps, Report for nine days, ending June 6, 1865, by Chap. C. R. Ford, Library 53: Volumes drawn, three hundred and eighteen; volumes lost, none. The books are eagerly sought, highly prized and thoroughly read.

Library 54: Volumes drawn, three hundred and five; volumes lost, none. The books are being read to death. The only failure

is, there are not books enough for the demand. They are doing incalculable good.

Library 70, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, Alexandria, La., Report, by Chap. B. L. Brisbane, for June, 1865: Volumes drawn, one hundred and eleven; volumes lost, none. The library is a fine collection. It is doing immense good. It is the best thing the Christian Commission has done for the service. Every regiment should have one. It has a deep and abiding influence—intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Each regiment should have a good and faithful chaplain, a good library, a chapel tent, and a horse and light, well-made wagon. The chaplain could do more good with these than by preaching. Would that the Government would take interest enough to furnish these things. For July: Volumes drawn, two hundred; volumes lost, none. The longer we have the library, the more useful we find it. For August: Volumes drawn, sixty-one; volumes lost, none. Have been on the march to Hempstead, Texas. For September: Volumes drawn, three hundred and thirty; volumes lost, seven. Some men in hospital were sent off and discharged, without returning, some of whom carried off books. We are very thankful for the library. No estimate can be made of the good it is doing. For October: Volumes drawn, one hundred and twenty-nine; volumes lost, three. Some books carried off by deserters, or others. Library has already well paid for itself. A number of souls lately converted. A good work going on in the regiment. I ascribe much to the library. Regiment mustered out on the 15th inst. The library has been of very great service. I turned it over to Rev. S. J. Orange, Agent Christian Commission, Brenham, Texas, November 22d, 1865.

Library 99, Hempstead, Texas, Report for September, 1865, by Rev. S. J. Orange, Agent Christian Commission: Volumes drawn, five hundred and twenty-five; volumes lost, none. The library has been invaluable to the men. They all praise the selection of books; and so interested were they, that I turned the library over to 1st Iowa Cavalry. For November, by Chap. J. S. Rand: Volumes drawn, three hundred and seven: volumes lost, three. At the end of October, we were on the march to Austin, Texas. The soldiers have employed much of their time in reading, instead of card-playing. We have a chapel tent, in which we keep the library,

and have prayer-meetings every evening. We have some clear conversions.

Library 105, Ekin Barracks Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind., Report for May, 1865, A. S. Pierce, Chief Steward: Volumes drawn, one hundred and twelve; volumes lost, none. The library has been extensively read. It seems to be just the right thing in the right place—a real blessing.

Library 147, Madison Barracks, Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., Report for December, 1865, by Librarian: Volumes drawn, two hundred and fifty-one; volumes lost, three. The books tend to keep the men in the garrison. They cultivate a taste for reading. They have a good influence, in many respects.

Library 160, Post Hospital, Capitol Barracks, Washington, D. C., Report for May, 1865, by S. S. Goodhue, Ward Master: The library has kept many from bad company, and from strolling round at night, and has made some think of their souls. I have heard expressions like these: "How much better I feel since I began to read these books! I was becoming too unsteady." "If I had had these books to read before, I should not have been in the guard-house." "The books I have read have opened my eyes; I mean to go home a better man."

Library 170, Companies B and F, 1st Regiment United States Veteran Volunteers, Baltimore, Md., Report for September, 1865, by Librarian: Most of the men read and stay more in quarters. "Miller on Alcohol," and "Lizars on Tobacco," have caused some to quit the use of these articles.

Library 178, 30th Co. U. S. H. A. Massachusetts Volunteers, Fort C. F. Smith, Va., Report for May, 1865, by W. A. Spooner: Volumes drawn, four hundred and fifteen; volumes lost, one. The library is a very choice one, and great credit and many thanks are due the United States Christian Commission for projecting and consummating so noble an enterprise.

Library 228, United States Flag Ship New Hampshire, Port Royal Harbor, S. C., Report for October, 1865, by Chas. Wiener, Librarian: Volumes drawn, two hundred and sixty-six; volumes lost, one. The library is having a good effect. It is lessening profanity and intoxication.

Field Work in Shenandoah Valley.

REV. EDWARD P. SMITH,

Field Secretary, U. S. Christian Commission:

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the U. S. Christian Commission in those portions of the field under my supervision, for the year 1865. During the early months of the year when my report begins, I was in charge of the work in the Middle Military Division, Major General Sheridan commanding. My last annual report closed with December 31st, 1864. This report begins with January 1st, 1865.

STATIONS.

The Department was geographically large, extending from Frederick, Maryland, two hundred and forty miles west, to Piedmont, West Virginia, on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and south from Harper's Ferry to Winchester, a distance of thirty miles. Our headquarters remained at Harper's Ferry, and by maintaining a number of stations at important points, we were enabled to do a thorough work. These stations were established at Frederick, Pleasant Valley, Lovettsville, Maryland Heights, Harper's Ferry, Stevenson's Station, Summit Point, Winchester, Martinsburg, Cumberland, Clarksburg, and Beverly, with several establishments temporarily at other points. The location of these rendered it convenient from them to reach all the troops in the Department.

CHAPELS.

With the beginning of January, we entered on the erection of chapels in different parts of the field. The larger part of the army lay around Winchester, and most of our chapels were erected in that vicinity. But we put up two at Cumberland, two in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, one at Lovettsville, and one at Martinsburg. The whole number in the Department was about thirty. Four of these were large marque tents, the others stockade buildings roofed with canvas. During the winter, meetings were held in all these chapels by chaplains and our own delegates, and were invariably, well attended. From all points came the most encouraging reports, and there is every reason to believe that a great and substantial work of grace was accomplished.

PLEASANT VALLEY—INTERESTING COMMUNION SERVICE.

One of the most important stations in the Department, and I feel quite safe in saying, one of the most important ever occupied by our Commission, if success in religious work be made the standard, was at Pleasant Valley, east of Maryland Heights. During the winter, the camp was occupied by dismounted cavalry, usually numbering about ten thousand. In the midst of this encampment we first erected a chapel, thirty feet by forty. This proving entirely too small to receive all who desired to attend our daily and nightly meetings, it was extended to ninety feet in length, built in stockade fashion, and covered with canvass. In this rude temple hundreds of brave men every night bowed together around the altar. A Bible-class was organized, two or three sermons were preached every Sabbath, besides preaching, or conference and prayer every evening, and thus the fires were kept continually burning upon this altar. During the four months of the progress of this work, there were several hundred hopeful conversions. On one cold and stormy Sabbath, in the latter part of April, the Lord's Supper was dispensed to about five hundred communicants. The clergymen officiating, and many others, speak of this as one of the most interesting scenes ever witnessed. Brave men, from almost every loyal State in the Union, bronzed, weather-beaten, battle-scarred veterans of many bloody fields, crowded the chapel as the hour approached, till every seat was occupied. And then, in rapt silence, they listened to the simple story of the dying love of Jesus, and partook of the hallowed emblems of the sacrifice that made men free. One of the officiating clergymen describes the scene in these words: "The appointments of the table were of an humble description. The plates were of tin, the cups pewter, the bread came from the commissary, the table-cover was two religious newspapers, and over the bread were two small napkins, clean, but not ironed. Yet, though the circumstances were so novel, and had so much of discomfort, and the appointments of the table were so plain, the service in which we engaged was full of the most solemn interest and profit." Prof. Stoever, of Gettysburg, who was present, refers to this interesting scene in these words: "It was one of the most impressive character, and reminded one very much of primitive apostolic times. Every one present seemed pervaded with the solemnity of the occasion. The chapel was filled with our veteran

soldiers, and all, with two or three exceptions, participated in the ordinance. As the men received the consecrated emblems contained in the humble vessels, it seemed as if all felt that Jesus was present; and as the communicants gathered around the feast, they realized the precious influences of the Holy Spirit."

I have dwelt upon this scene, because it is one of the brightest spots in the history of the war, and stands in the foreground of the picture—the love of Jesus sanctifying the war for liberty and truth.

CHAPLAIN LITTLE'S SCHOOL IN THE ARMY.

All the soldiers who have been in the Army of the Valley, know Chaplain Little and his "music-box." The Chaplain and his boys, (1st. Va. Vets.,) built a large stockade chapel at Cumberland, and roofed it with two of our "flies." In the evenings they had prayer-meetings or preaching, and during the day time the chapel became a school-room. Forms and rude desks were arranged around the walls, and then from morning till night, from one to two hundred "boys in blue" sat with their books, and slates, and pens, and spelt, and read, and wrote under the direction of their Professor and his ample corps of assistants. Thus again ghastly war was transformed by the institutions of a free civilization casting their refining and elevating influences into its very midst. Many sturdy West Virginians will always remember this old army school-house, as the place where they learned the first rudiments of their education.

Other points of special interest might be named, but to speak of all would make this report too prolix.

LIBRARIES AND WRITING-TABLES.

Circulating libraries were placed in all our stations, and did much to lighten the dull hours of camp life, for those disposed to seek recreation and pleasure in books. In each station and chapel, tables were also erected, and kept constantly supplied with stationery and all necessary conveniences for letter-writing. These tables were constantly occupied, and tens of thousands of letters went forth to gladden tens of thousands of hearts and homes. From thirty to forty reams of paper were thus distributed every week. None of our expenditures paid better than this effort to join the

home and field together, both by cheering the soldier, and relieving the anxieties of those who wait and watch around the fireside.

NEWSPAPERS.

Our supply of religious newspapers during the winter months was ample. They were distributed from our stations to all in reach; and arrangements were made by which we sent by mail or express, to all detachments lying along the railroad, out of reach of these stations, so that every regiment, and squad, and detachment received regular weekly supplies of papers, either from our Stations or delegates, or by mail or express.

HOSPITALS, AND HOSPITAL WORK.

While the religious work was always deemed of paramount importance, the relief of physical suffering was also made a constant aim. The principal hospitals of the Department were located at Winchester, Frederick, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Cumberland, Clareysville and Clarksburg. These hospitals were all regularly visited, and in no case was there any prohibition placed on our work by any officer or surgeon. On the contrary, our delegates were always, and everywhere treated in the kindest and most courteous manner. It would be invidious to mention names of medical officers for special thanks, when all treated us so kindly, and rendered us every facility for the proper and full performance of our work. During the winter and spring, a large amount of clothing and other supplies, was distributed in the hospital, and in the field. The patients, in most of the hospitals, were visited every day, and supplied with reading matter if able to read; and brief services were usually held in each ward every evening. As usual in our work, letter-writing formed an important part of the delegate's duty in all hospital visitations.

WORK IN THE CAVALRY CORPS.

"Sheridan's cavalry" formed part of the Army of the Valley during the winter. It has always been difficult to extend the labors of our Commission into this arm of the service, as cavalrymen rarely, if ever, remain even in winter-quarters more than a few weeks. Hence special pains were taken to make a thorough and complete work, and to extend the influences of our work into every regiment of this noble organization, while in winter-quarters. A chapel was erected in every brigade but one, and many very interesting reli-

gious services were held, and the interest in these exercises continued to grow, till the breaking up of the camps in the spring put a summary close to all our efforts in that corps.

FORWARDING MONEY AND PACKAGES.

The forwarding of money from the army in the field, to the express-office at Harper's Ferry, formed an important feature of our work after pay-day. From Winchester, and Stevenson's Station alone, we forwarded, from March 10th, to May 10th, five hundred thousand dollars, ($500,000.)* A check was given for every package received, and kept by the soldier till the Express Company's receipt was returned. The importance of this part of our work will be better appreciated, when it is remembered that had not this facility been afforded, a large portion of this money would have been foolishly expended in camp, and would never have reached the soldier's homes. But by affording this opportunity, and carefully informing each regiment of our arrangements, and our desire to oblige them in this matter, many were induced to send to their families, who otherwise would not have done so, and many poor families were made rich. At the breaking-up of the camps in the spring, thirty thousand packages and bundles of clothing were received at Winchester, and Stevenson's Station, and forwarded by express in the same manner.

MOVEMENTS—PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING CAMPAIGN.

On the 27th of February, General Sheridan started up the Valley with his cavalry, to take part in the grand combination which ultimated in the complete destruction of the rebel armies. This movement, by taking away so large a force, considerably abridged our work. But several thousand new troops soon arrived, and preparations were made for an active spring campaign. As the combinations developed, and the grand concerted movement advanced, and all were preparing for the final act, our army was massed around Winchester, about the 1st of April, under the command of General Hancock. Preparations were made for a movement up the Valley, simultaneously with General Grant's movements from the South. But the speedy completion of the work by the gallant armies around Richmond, resulting in the capture not only of the capital, but of the principal army of the

* The entire amount thus transmitted by our several agencies, if recorded, would have been seen to amount to millions of dollars.

rebellion, rendered our advance unnecessary, and the splendid army of General Hancock went into camp along the railroad from Winchester to Harper's Ferry. This preparation for a march involved the breaking up of winter-quarters, and consequently of our system of camp-work, which had become so fruitful of good. All our chapels were taken down, all supplies, stores, canvas and baggage sent back, and preparations made to accompany the army on its march. As soon, however, as the troops returned to their camps, our work was at once re-established, and proved very interesting and profitable.

When all the rebel forces in Virginia had been captured, the greater part of our army was sent to Washington. From this time the dimensions of our work were rapidly lessened; but it was not entirely closed till about the first of August.

WORK AROUND WASHINGTON.

On the 10th of May, my Department was extended so as to embrace the armies, then gathering around Washington city, for final disbandment and muster-out. Co-operating with Mr. Cole, General Field Agent for the Army of the Potomac, I established stations in the different corps, erected chapels, and organized as thorough a work as possible. These stations were maintained in the several corps till nearly all the troops had been mustered out and sent home. There was a deep religious interest in many places and, many came to attend the evening meetings, even to the last. Besides this, a very extensive relief work was performed. After the long and weary marches, just undergone in the final campaign, and then, immediately afterwards, the long march from the fields of conquest to the capital, had left many of the men destitute of proper clothing, and all weary and exhausted. To relieve this destitution and suffering, as far as in our power, thousands of shirts and drawers, and hundreds of barrels of pickles and vegetables, were at once distributed, besides our usual supplies of stationery and reading matter.

The stupendous task of disbanding such mighty armies being too great for one day, many of the men soon began to manifest impatience and home sickness, and we had much to do to cheer and encourage, and to cultivate a spirit of quiet patience.

But as the mighty armies melted away, and our soldiers went

from the camp to home-life again, the demand for our labors grew less; and at the first of July we withdrew all our stations from the field, issued a farewell to the officers and soldiers, and so closed up the work which, for three years, had been maintained in the field, representing home in every battle, and which had grown from a small beginning, almost too small to have a name, to the most gigantic dimensions ever attained by any benevolent and Christian enterprise. Its career was one of uninterrupted progress. Its influence widened and extended as it moved on, even to the final close, so that its last days were indeed its best days.

Having completed the work in the field, and closed up the business operations of the Department, my connection with the Commission formally ceased on the 15th of July.

AGENTS AND DELEGATES.

This Report would not be complete nor just, if I should fail to mention the names of some of those most actively associated with myself in this work. Whatever measure of success our Commission work attained during the year, was due under God, who watcheth over all, not to myself, but to those faithful ones, whose hearts and hands loved and toiled in the camp, on the field, and in the hospital. It would be invidious to mention the names of delegates, as specially praiseworthy, when, with only one or two exceptions, all were faithful, earnest, self-sacrificing men, who went to the field because they loved God, their country, and their country's defenders.

The agent upon whom the largest share of the work, in detail, was devolved, was Rev. N. C. Brackett, of Maine. Being a strong man, and possessed of tireless energy, it was impossible to give him too much to do. He was associated with me in all the operations in the Shenandoah Valley, and won for himself the kindest wishes of many hundreds of soldiers, as well as of officers and delegates. Rev. E. Colton had direction of the work in and around Cumberland, and Rev. J. H. Earle, at Stevenson's Station. The success of the work, at these two points, was due to the assiduity and tirelessness of these gentlemen. Gideon Bantz, Esq., resident agent at Frederick, so well known to our armies and to the country, for his Christian and philanthropic patriotism, wearied not in his self-sacrificing work, to the end. W. H. Pope, Esq., labored

efficiently at Harper's Ferry for several months, and Revs. A. Redlon and J. W. Fish, at Martinsburg.

Miss E. E. Edmonds, so well known to the country as the author of "The Nurse and Spy," labored in the hospitals, chiefly at Harper's Ferry, till May 10th. The country can never be grateful enough for her services during four years of unremitting toil, in camp and field and hospital. In the most quiet and unostentatious way she labored both for the temporal and spiritual good of the soldiers, treating every one with as much kindness and tenderness as if he had been her own brother. Her name will live enshrined in the memories of thousands, for good deeds, and kind, cheering words, in countless brave hearts, and will stand in the country's roll of honor as one of that immortal legion of patriot sisters who went from the refinements, and luxuries, and elegancies of our best homes, to share the toils and sacrifices of the camp and field, to bind up with tender hand, the bleeding wound, to cheer the weary, home-sick heart, and to add new lustre to the glory of woman's name.

THE DEAD.

I would not forget here to record the names of those who, since my last Report, fell among the dead, while engaged in the active service of the Commission. Rev. Wm. Brown, of Portland, Maine, and R. D. Merritt, of Wilson, N. Y., both died at their posts, with their hearts full of love, and their hands full of work. They died of toil for the Master, and were mourned by many brave men who had seen their devotion, and learned to love them.

CONCLUSION.

In closing this, my third and last annual Report, I would return my thanks to the officers of the Commission for their unvarying kindness to me, personally and officially, during the three years of my connection with the work. Nothing has ever occurred to mar the most pleasant relations. There have been no complaints, no impatience, no fault-finding—when there was, doubtless, room for much;—but all has been kindness, patience and favor, from beginning to end.

And now, our work is done, our organization dissolved, those intimate relations are broken up, and we go our several ways, to engage elsewhere in our blessed Master's work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. MILLER, *General Field Agent.*

Report of Commission Work at Stephenson, Va.,* by Rev. James H. Earle, Agent in charge of the Station.

This station was at the termination of the U. S. Military Railroad, five miles from Winchester, and thirty-seven from Harper's Ferry. It was the base of supplies for the troops all over the valley, to which circumstance it owes its importance.

I think, after the battles in this vicinity, only a small force was here, until the last of December, 1864, when General Sheridan's Army having rested a few weeks at Kearnstown from the memorable battles and victories of September 19th and October 19th, broke camp, and a portion of them—the 19th Corps—came to this place, whither I followed them.

The Commission had established a station here a few weeks before, which was sorely cramped for room until the arrival of the long-desired chapel-tents, one of which was erected January 9th, 1865. Situated on an elevation, sloping gently to the railroad depot, some thirty rods distant, it commanded a fine view of the camps on all sides, and the fields and majestic forests stretching far beyond them to the "Blue Mountains" on the east, and on the west the "North and South Mountains."

It was a joyful sight, when fairly up, and its great white roof began to blend with the sky in the evening twilight. We went in, and gave it its first dedication, by singing a part of old "Coronation."

Up to this time our work was *outside* the tent; not much could be done in the way of meetings, except when we gathered with the boys in the hospital, or around their bright camp fires, and sang "the songs we used to sing *at home.*"

The regular dedication of our chapel-tent took place, Sunday, January 15th, from which time meetings were continued, *nightly*, until the 4th of July.

Rough and plain as our meeting-house was, we all soon learned to love it. The Spirit blessed our nightly gatherings; the cry of the returning backslider, and of the anxious sinner, were quickly followed by the rejoicings of the young convert. The work kept

* This station has been reported in the preceding statement of Mr. Miller, the General Field Agent. The detailed report of the Station Agent is added as a specimen of the kind and amount of work wrought by the hundreds of stations which the Commission has established during the war.

extending gradually and quietly, but surely, as an advancing tide, sweeping over the rocks and sands along the shore. Months passed, and still the Spirit was working with us; and when the last Division of the 19th Corps was ordered away in April, anxious souls went with it. The interest, instead of *decreasing*, seemed to *increase* among the new troops that came in to relieve them. Never had the chapel been so crowded; the seats were packed, night after night, numbers going away, or sitting down on the grass outside, for want of room within. Many found these evening gatherings one of the pleasantest things in their soldier life; and, better still, many told us that *there* they found Jesus.

An Iowa soldier—a manly fellow, whose wife and mother had been praying for him, and who, at last, came out a decided, happy Christian, wrote as follows, after his regiment had moved to North Carolina:—"If you are still in the valley, the distance between us is several hundred miles, yet my thoughts oftentimes go back to you, and in thinking of you I thank my God that I met you when I did. I can never forget the first time I went to that tent to meeting, nor how hard you worked with me; and, friend Earle, if I should live to see even more than the common age of man, I can never forget you. I am now where I cannot attend church as I did in the valley; but I feel as though I can live far differently than I did before I came to Camp Russell or Camp Stevenson."

An Indiana soldier said in our meeting:—"There is so much confusion in camp, I cannot compose my mind; and when I want recreation, I come up to this tent to meeting."

IN THE HOSPITAL.

Here we made frequent visits,—sometimes going at "ration time," and dropping half a peach into the poor, sick boys' fevered mouths; sometimes, in the morning, to write letters for them; sometimes, to give them neat, clean clothing; sometimes, kneeling by the sick bed in prayer; sometimes, telling of a Saviour's love, or reading some of his own comforting words.

One evening, after our usual meeting in the chapel, a lieutenant asked us to go with him to the hospital, to see one of his company, who was sick, and not expected to live. Passing through the dimly-lighted ward, with its sleeping patients and yawning nurses, we found the subject of the lieutenant's anxiety. He was a fine-look-

ing boy, in considerable distress of mind for his soul's salvation. After a close talk with him, a delegate prayed, he joining in prayer *audibly*. In humble submission, he exclaimed again and again: "Here, Lord, I give myself to Thee!" We felt that such a yielding up *would* be blessed by God, and it was, for at once his whole manner changed from distress to joy, and he exclaimed: "O, I'm *so happy!*" "I'm happy *all* over." The surgeon stood quietly by, watching the scene, and expressed the belief that it would be just the medicine for his body, as well as soul; and so it proved, for from that time he began to recover.

Going into the hospital at another time, and stopping by the bed of a sick man, I asked him if he were "feeling badly to-day." "Not so badly in body as in mind," was his reply. I sat down by him, and he told me how the Spirit had convicted him of sin,—how Satan had made him believe there was no hope for him, until a chaplain had shown him there was. After showing the completeness of Christ's work on the cross, and the simplicity of the plan of salvation by faith, I knelt down by his side and prayed. He joined; and such an agony of soul and body in the struggle to grasp the promises, I think I never before saw. But his faith was *too weak then*. A few days after, his regiment started for home; and while they were waiting some twenty-four hours for transportation, I took their sick into our quarters. He was among them; and when I came to talk with him, it was as I expected,—he had found hope.

WORK AMONG THE INHABITANTS.

The Union people of Whitehall sent a delegation through the Union lines, asking us to furnish them preaching on the next day, as they wished to join the weeping nation in its last sad services of respect and love to their departed President. We found the church well filled, and the sermon, which was full of patriotism and whole-souled support of the Administration, and praise of the virtues of the illustrious martyr, was listened to most attentively. They wished us to furnish them preaching regularly on the Sabbath, which we did, until affairs became settled enough for them to have a minister of their own. We also furnished them a few papers weekly. Their thanks were abundant and *heartfelt*,—not always in words alone, but sometimes in the form of a pleasant gift of honey, fruit, or vegetables.

Some five or six miles in another direction, an old man, far away from religious privileges, and lying on what was thought his dying bed, sent for us. Our reception seemed cool, but he was soon listening to the story of Christ's love with tearful eyes. After two or three visits, he gave evidence of having been "born again." Subsequent visits showed a submission to God's will, and a meek spirit, that were most delightful to witness.

COLORED SCHOOL.

After we reduced the number of our meetings, we opened a school for freedmen on the unoccupied evenings. The number of scholars was sixty-seven, of all ages from twelve to forty-six. Their improvement, and eagerness to learn and to elevate themselves, were remarkable. I parted from them sadly; they have proved themselves worthy of all that can be done for them.

VARIETY OF THE WORK.

As this place boasts hardly a house of *its own*, we have had to combine in our quarters nearly all the institutions of a well-ordered village. We have had meeting-house, hospital, reading-room, writing-room, soldiers' home, post-office, express-office, news-room, hotel (free,) dispensary, &c.

The grounds in front of the tent, are trodden almost like a camp. The boys come to us with their sorrows and their joys, to have letters written and letters read, money expressed, for food, for lodging, for clothing, for sympathy, counsel, and encouragement. But time would fail me to mention their numberless daily wants.

STATISTICS,

Though they do not *lie*, fail to tell the *whole* truth, presenting nothing but the skeleton, which wants the flesh and blood to give an idea of the *real* work of the Commission. But, I suppose, you will expect a few:—

Number of meetings held,	. . . .	243
" " Testaments and Bibles distributed,	. .	1,300
" " Papers,	. . . . .	45,000
" " pages of Tracts,	. . . .	223,000
" " Hymn-books,	. . . .	2,000
" " packages of *hospital stores*, from a barrel of pickles, or a shirt, to a dose of medicine, distributed,	. . . .	83,000
" " sheets of paper, with an envelope,	. .	40,000

Amount of money expressed for soldiers,	$40,000
Total number of delegates at station in the five months,	30
Cash expenses of station,	$1,100

I have kept no account of the number of soldiers lodged or fed. It is large, sometimes fifty in a single day. In fact, these few figures give only a part of what might have been recorded. But I must draw my report to a close.

My work with the Commission is done. I look it over with mingled sorrow and rejoicing,—sorrow, that it was not done better,—rejoicing, that so much good was done—that some souls were saved—some kept from vice—many hearts made glad—countless wants relieved, and that "the Providence of this war" brought forth this great national organization of Christian benevolence—that the streams running into its bosom, from the many homes scattered over our loyal soil, from the pine forests of Maine to the golden sands of California, have made it a great ocean, from which they again have flowed forth in little rills, or rising in clouds have fallen in gentle showers over the desert of the soldier's life, and made it bud and blossom with *home* flowers, and bring forth fruit planted by dear ones *at home*—and that the soldier has learned to love it, and has seen in its supplies a wife's hand, a sister's love, a mother's tender thoughtfulness, and a father's care.

Christian Commission Work in the Armies Operating against Richmond.

REPORT OF JOHN A. COLE, GENERAL FIELD AGENT.

REV. E. P. SMITH, *Sec. of U. S. Christian Commisson*:

DEAR SIR—The accompanying reports of Field and Corps and Station Agents, in the "Armies operating against Richmond," will give a view somewhat in detail, of the work of the Commission for 1865, and make it unnecessary for me to present more than a sketch in outline.

At the beginning of the year, the two great "armies operating against Richmond," were occupying a continuous line of fortifications, fifty miles in length; the army of the Potomac being on the "left," before Petersburg; the army of the James on the "right," before Richmond.

Seven long months had these immense hosts laid seige to the de-

voted cities, wresting from them one stronghold after another, by fierce battles and rapid midnight marches. Now they are comparatively at rest—although the sound of hostile guns never ceased—waiting in "winter quarters," the warm days and hardening roads of spring. The Christian Commission, which, thoroughly organized, had been actively engaged during these months caring for the wounded and the sick, preaching the gospel of Christ in the camps, and supplying from its ample stores aliment for both body and mind, had now presented a needy and hopeful field for its most earnest efforts.

As during the preceding winter, these efforts were mainly directed toward the provision of means by which the soldiers in every part of the army should be encouraged and enabled to improve their time by attention to their eternal interests.

The Army of the Potomac was composed of the 2nd, 5th, 6th, and 9th Army Corps; the Army of the James of the 24th and 25th, the latter corps, recently organized, being composed exclusively of colored troops. Each army had a large "base," or "depot" Hospital; that of the Army of the Potomac, being near City Point; the other about five miles distant, at Point of Rocks. At each of these large hospitals, preparations had been made early in the season for a complete establishment, consisting of a comfortable chapel, seating six hundred persons; a large, well-lighted reading-room, provided with library, files of daily and weekly papers, and tables, with writing materials, free to soldiers; a second chapel, for the use of colored soldiers; a ware-room for hospital stores, and commodious quarters for the delegates.

These buildings were well made, covered with roofs of boards and tarred paper; had good floors; comfortable seats; were well warmed and lighted, and made attractive by every available means. From ten to twenty delegates were constantly employed at each, their duties being to visit each ward of the hospital, to give personal attention to each patient, distribute good reading, cheer the patients, by conversing with them or writing letters for them, and to hold short religious services with them as often as practicable. Meetings were also held in the chapel every evening; the services consisting usually of a short sermon by a delegate or chaplain, followed by a prayer-meeting, in which the soldiers freely engaged.

The reading-rooms were thronged with soldiers from morning till

night, this being accounted the "pleasantest place in camp," and the chapel-meetings were well attended, and not unfrequently crowded to the utmost. At each hospital, throughout the winter, the blessed influences of the Holy Spirit were manifest. Scarcely a night passed but some soldier, and sometimes as many as one hundred, asked the prayers of Christians and sought the Saviour's blessing. Often, as many as twenty or thirty, have on the same evening, resolved to consecrate themselves to Christ. The influence of these meetings, so blessed by the presence of God, was very extensive, as men were constantly passing from the hospital to their regiments in all parts of the army, carrying with them the power of their new life. Hundreds of precious souls were born into the kingdom of God, at these hospitals.

Meetings were frequently conducted, also, in the German language, for the benefit of many Germans, who greatly prized this unaccustomed privilege.

The history of either one of these stations, could it be accurately written, would be not only of thrilling interest, but would present a most wonderful record of the mercy of God, in the quickening and conversion of souls; of answers to prayer, and encouragements to faithful Christian effort. Very many poor sufferers, dying in these hospitals, far away from friends and home, have been comforted and cheered by the kind attentions of the delegates, and been led to a faith in Christ and to a triumphant death. Very many hardened sinners, coming to the hospitals, unbelieving, profane, and profligate, have gone away rejoicing, humble followers of Jesus.

Here have the prayers of many fathers and mothers been answered; here have many desponding, doubting Christians received new courage, and here have the hearts of the Lord's children burned within them as they talked of Jesus. When other parts of the army were in motion, and when other stations were broken up, these were undisturbed, and from the first establishment of the hospitals until the final disbanding of the armies—a period of nearly twelve months—they were a source of health, life, and peace to the suffering and needy.

At "the front," stations were established at central points in each corps, and were made as commodious and attractive as was possible, in the circumstances. Each Station had a fine, large

chapel and reading-room, and quarters for from five to ten delegates. Many of these chapels were gems of rustic art, of beautiful proportions, the interior being adorned with wreaths and festoons of evergreen and holly. These chapels were occupied as reading-rooms during the day, and for services each evening and on the Sabbath, and were almost without exception, the scenes of powerful revivals, being crowded to overflowing from night to night.

From each station also, the delegates went regularly to the regiments, in their vicinity, taking a weekly supply of religions reading, and in many instances, holding meetings in the open air. The chaplains of regiments were also supplied, as during the last winter, with canvas-roofs, stoves and lamps, thus enabling them to erect seventy-five large and comfortable houses of worship. Some of these were very large—sixty feet in length by thirty-five in width—several of this size being put up in the 25th corps, and used both as chapels and school-rooms. For these colored troops the Commission furnished, not only roofing, stoves, and lights, but primers, blackboards and readers, organizing the schools and providing them with teachers. The results of these schools were very satisfactory, the soldiers learning rapidly, and showing a great desire to improve.

Although, during the months of January and February, there were many startling rumors of meditated attacks, and not a few changes in the location of troops, the stations of the Commission, extending, as they did, along the line of the armies from Hatcher's Run, on the extreme left, to "Fort Hawsin" and "Deep Bottom," on the right, were able to accomplish an extensive and valuable work, proving a blessing to very many, preparing them for that exchange of worlds, which to them might be near at hand.

As the month of March came in, it became evident that active operations were to be resumed at a very early day, and vigorous preparations were made for what, all felt, must prove a bloody campaign.

The "Corps Sections" were reorganized, wagons loaded with battle-field supplies, and every thing made ready for a sudden movement. The chapels were left, however, until the last moment and the meetings continued in them, growing in interest, until the final breaking-up. One night, the enemy made an unexpected attack upon the lines of the 9th Corps, capturing a fort and pene-

trating far within our lines, only to be driven back, after a severe fight, with great loss of life. The wounded were taken to "Meade Station" and our beautiful chapel, which, only the evening before, had been occupied by quiet worshippers, was now filled with bleeding and dying men, some of them being the same persons, who, but a few hours before, had left that room in perfect health and vigor. So strange are the contrasts of war!

The armies are now joined by Sheridan's famous cavalry, who have come by forced marches, from the valley of the Shenandoah, to bear no unimportant part in the closing struggles of the war. They cross the James and Appomattox Rivers, on muffled bridges, under cover of the night, and encamp for a few days, near the Army of the Potomac. Here they are joined by a "section" of the Commission, and liberally supplied with stores, of which the war-worn heroes stood much in need.

And now the whole army is in commotion. The cavalry take their position on the extreme left of the line, driving the enemy before them; a large force composed of parts of the 24th and 25th corps, cross from the right to the left and join the Army of the Potomac. Winter camps are broken up, and the immense hosts await, in battle line, the orders to advance. The battle is not long delayed. Sheridan's cavalry and the 5th corps are early engaged, and, after a severe battle, gain a victory at "Five Forks." Cannon and mortars, along the entire line, blaze and roar through the darkness of the night, until, just as the morning of the 1st of April dawns, the grand charge is made. Fearful slaughter ensues, but nothing can withstand that charge! The enemy is driven back, and that line, which, for eleven months, had withstood every attack, and before which thousands of brave soldiers had perished, seemingly in vain, was now broken, never to be reunited! Soon the word passed from corps to corps, and, on lightning wings from city to city, and town to town, all through the broad land, "Richmond and Petersburg have fallen, and the armies of the Confederacy are in full retreat!"

Now begins the pursuit. Cavalry, infantry, and artillery, regardless of fatigue, scarcely stopping for food or rest, press eagerly forward, over the muddy roads and through the swollen streams, now skirmishing with the enemy, now capturing a supply train, now fighting with an advance guard for an important pass, now

cutting off an entire division, until, in just one week from the evacuation of Petersburg, the rebel army is completely surrounded, its General surrenders, and its veterans lay down their arms in presence of the victors, and the "Great Rebellion" is no more!

The Agents and Delegates of the Christian Commision were not idle during these eventful days.

Organized into companies under experienced leaders, and amply supplied with every-thing required, they were promptly at hand wherever there was work to be done.

The "5th Corps Section," constantly at the front, afforded, with its "Coffee wagon" and stores, material relief to the wounded as they lay on the field the night after the battle of Five Forks, and then attending the "Flying Hospital" followed the Corps to Appomattox Court-House.

The "24th Corps Section" was with the advance on the march, and relieved many of those who were wounded in the last engagement of the war, also sending a detachment from its number with food and supplies for the hospitals at Farmville.

The "9th Corps Section," taking forward three heavy wagon loads of supplies, established a Station at Burkesville where was a large depot hospital for the wounded. Many hundred men were brought here from the battle fields where they had lain for days without food or care. Government supplies, for some reason, were very scarce at this place for several days, and the stores brought by the Commision proved exceedingly valuable. The delegates worked night and day nursing the wounded, cooking and distributing food, bringing loads of straw from neighboring plantations, and by every personal ministration, taking the place of absent father and brother.

The "Railroad Section," which was organized to attend especially to the wounded as they were moved from the field to railroad stations, and hence in cars to the "depot hospital," was very busily employed both night and day, furnishing hot coffee, crackers and food, and giving special care to such as required it. First at Humphrey's Station, among the wounded of the cavalry and Second and Fifth Corps; then at Warren Station, as the wounded of the Sixth Corps were moved from field hospitals to the base; then at Meade Station, as the hospitals of the Ninth Corps were broken up, this section performed its valuable work.

The "Individual Relief" Corps of the Commission was actively

engaged in searching out and imparting accurate information regarding the wounded and the dead, attending to special cases entrusted to its charge, sending home thousands of packages of valuables and precious momentoes from the soldiers to their loved ones there. At Richmond and Petersburg, permanent stations were established at once, the delegates being at first employed in the care of the sick and wounded in the Confederate Hospitals where many men were found in great destitution.

At each place, but more particularly at Richmond, the Commission was compelled to assist many of the women and children who were left entirely destitute of food by the burning of their homes, and the destruction of their stores. This work was, however, soon taken off our hands by the "Union Commission," which sent a large invoice of flour and an agent to attend to its distribution. Thus, during these eventful days at every point, the Commission was ready with willing hands and abundant stores, to comfort and relieve the suffering.

Thus closed the final campaign of the war. The troops after a few days of rest took up their line of march toward home; the hospitals and camps, one after another, were broken up, the stations of the Commission were removed, and in a few weeks the army of the Potomac was encamped about Arlington Heights, on the very spot where, four years ago, it had first been called into being.

Here again, for a few weeks was a precious opportunity to work for souls.

To the veteran who, his task performed, now waiting only that final order, long delayed, which would restore him an honored citizen to the home circle, which at the call of his country he had left long years ago, the wheels of time dragged heavily. What better time than this to direct his thougths to that heavenly Father, who had spared him through all the perils of his army life to urge him henceforth to a consecration of body and soul to that Father's service?

The large canvas chapel which a few weeks before he had left on the eve of battle to go forth to the uncertainties of a fierce campaign, now once more invited him to worship and to thanksgiving. In every corps and permanent camp, these "tabernacles" were pitched, and nightly resounded with hymns of praise and prayers of triumphant faith.

Here from the lips of veterans, who in marches, in the trenches, in the storms of battle, and in the prisons of the foe, had for years braved the hardships of war, fell words of childlike faith and trust, testifying to the reality of that hope in Christ which had never deserted them, and which the darkness of the world could never take away.

It was in truth a Pentecostal season to hundreds of souls, one that can never be forgotten by those who were permitted to partake in that "harvest home."

That pillar of fire which had ever gone before us, guiding in a way that we knew not, a way encompassed by difficulties and dangers, but made glorious by the favor of God, seemed now to rest upon every tabernacle and to shine upon every heart.

Only a few short weeks did these scenes continue, the order came, the regiments passed away, each to its parent State, and henceforth the Army of the Potomac was to live only on the pages of history, and in the memories of men.

And with it closed that work, which, beginning in the efforts of a few to bring the blessings of practical Christianity to men who, in the new life of the army, were denied the privileges of home, had extended over the whole period of the war, a work which had embraced the labors of hundreds of the Lord's children; which had been followed in its mission to the afflicted and the lost, by the prayers of ten times ten thousand faithful hearts; which had, in the name of Christ, brought healing to many a fainting body, and life to many a perishing soul.

Its record, too, shall live in the memories of men. Thousands will have reason to bear it in thankful remembrance for the help it brought to them in their hour of extremity.

Thousands, stricken in the battles of the Peninsula, at Chantilly, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Richmond,—those fainting by weariness on marches, and languishing by disease in army hospitals, have reason to thank God for the help rendered them in that name of *Christ*.

The souls that have in a hundred "Stations" found peace through faith in His name, and been made heirs to an inheritance, incorruptible and eternal, will never forget that work.

When those, who as humble instruments in the hand of God, for

this work, and those whom they sought to benefit, shall alike have passed away from earth and been forgotten, the influence of these labors shall still exist imperishable as eternity, because they are the work of the Divine Spirit and not the work of man.

Report of the Commission's Work in the Army of the James, from November 1864, to the close of the War.

BY REV. E. F. WILLIAMS, FIELD AGENT, ARMY OF THE JAMES.

Previously to November, 1864, the work of the Christian Commission in the armies operating against Richmond, had been directed by a single agent, whose duties embraced the oversight of the work within the fortifications at City Point, the army of the Potomac and the army of the James.

The field was too extended for the care of one mind, and in November a corps of associates was organized, and a division of labor was effected;—Mr. M. B. Lowrie, taking charge of the army of the Potomac; Rev. S. S. Ashley, of the General Hospital and the work within the defences at City Point; while the army of the James, with the fleet of gunboats in the river, and the prisoners who might be exchanged at Aiken's Landing, were assigned to me.

At this time there could not have been less than sixty thousand men under the command of General Butler. The forces lay along a line of breastworks, of twelve or fourteen miles in extent. The first line began at the Appomattox, a little south of Butler's tower, and ended with the James' River, and was technically known as the Bermuda Front. Another line began with the defences of Dutch Gap, on the north side of the river, and extending from Fort Brady to Fort Burnham, (the Rebel Fort Harrison,) and bending around backward, first in an easterly direction, then runing almost southerly, its extreme right rested upon the James' River, just below Deep Bottom.

Along this line, north of the James, lay the Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, while from six to ten Independent Regiments held the Bermuda Front, all ready to advance, or to fall back, at a moment's notice.

The work in this army had been organized in April and May of 1864, by J. R. Miller, since the general field agent in the Shenandoah Valley.

For two months he kept the oversight of both the corps belonging to this army. But after the fight of the Eighteenth Corps, at Cold Harbor, the great number of wounded there rendered it necessary for Mr. Miller to give his personal attention to the work in one corps only. So that, when all the forces had crossed the James, and were entrenched in front of Petersburg, there were really no field agents in the armies, and scarcely enough corps agents to properly manage the work. And yet, through the extra efforts of Mr. Cole, the general agent, and Mr. Jenkins, his assistant, whose labors at City Point, in the July sun, seriously undermined his constitution, the work was carried on with a good degree of regularity, and with very great success.

Papers were distributed to nearly all the regiments; and vegetables and peaches were in many cases provided for the soldiers in the trenches, as well as for those in the hospitals.

But as winter drew near, and the prospect of a winter campaign became less certain, it was determined to have more than a single station in a Corps, or Corps Hospital; to have stations established in such places as would render access to all the men in the field easy and practicable.

Measures were at once taken to increase the working capacity of the station at Point of Rocks, the hospital there being very large, and there being a prospect it would soon become still more important by the addition of the base hospital of the Tenth corps.

Preparations were made to provide a larger chapel than the one already erected. Foundations sixty feet by forty were laid, the logs being cut in the pine forests near by, and hauled as we could get opportunity, and aid from the Quarter-master's Department. In the course of two months, the work having been delayed by our inability to secure boards for the floor and the roof—the building was completed and dedicated to the service of God.

The room was filled the first night it was opened, and it was generally crowded while the hospital continued. Those best qualified to judge, estimate the number of conversions which took place in it, or as the result of its erection, during the three or four months it was in use, at not less than five hundred.

A building for a reading-room and library was also erected; also a store, from which articles needed in the wards were dispensed; a school-house, where colored children and colored soldiers were

taught with great success for more than four months; a comfortable house for delegates; a dining-room and kitchen; and a house intended as an office, but occupied chiefly by ladies connected with the diet-kitchens.

These plastered log houses, arranged on a neat plan, made quite an attractive village. Indeed, it is not risking much to say that few delegates who labored at Point of Rocks can ever forget the happy days and the glorious meetings there enjoyed.

The work of the Commission continued longer here than at any other point in the army, as the station was not broken up until June 1865, and its commencement dated back to June of the preceding year.

At the beginning of November, there was a station of the Commission in the Tenth Corps Base Hospital, on the banks of the James, not far from Jones' Landing. For some reason, this station was never greatly prospered. The meetings were thinly attended, and, though there was a good degree of interest manifested, there was none of that deep religious feeling which characterized the work in other stations of the Commission. The delegates, however, did good work in the wards of the hospital, going from bed to bed, and conversing with the men upon the subject of personal religion, holding meetings in the tents every Sabbath and frequently during the week, and affording funeral services for the dead. They preached to the regiments in the vicinity, and faithfully distributed the reading matter put into their hands.

But the removal of the hospital to Point of Rocks was a matter of gratitude to those who had this station in charge. They now brought the station nearer the landing, hoping that the same labor expended upon a different class of men, might be more effective for the cause of Christ.

Nor were they disappointed in the result. The new station served as a base of supplies for all our operations in the Army of the James—which was now upon the north side of the river; a large number of teamsters were reached by it, (for at this time the wagons of the army were parked near Jones' Landing,) and the employees of the Quarter-master and Commissary Departments, found another large class of men among whom we had not worked regularly for a long time. They now received our attention. A school for colored men was also established; meetings were held nearly every night,

in a large tent, (Crozer Tabernacle,) forty by thirty feet, not so full as those at Point of Rocks, but with a good degree of interest and many conversions.

Some twelve or more regiments were constantly visited from this station, and religious services held with them whenever it was practicable.

From this point also the gunboats and monitors were reached; and here we kept the food which was given the hungry prisoners who came down from Richmond to Varina (or Aiken's) to be exchanged. So that, taking all things into account, the station at Jones's Landing was one of the most important in the field.

Crossing the river by the pontoon bridge at Aiken's, and going northward by the road cut through Aiken's farm, and passing by General Butler's head-quarters, we reach the Field Hospital of the 18th Corps, and find the flag of the Christian Commission floating over "Butler Station." There is a chapel here which is always well filled, and under its sacred canvass very many souls are being converted. This station does a quiet but effective work for several months, till the negroes of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James are consolidated into a single corps, (the 25th,) and all the white troops of the Army of the James are formed into the 24th. Then it is broken up, and the delegates assigned to other places.

Pressing on still further, and bearing to the south of east for two miles, we come to "White Oak" Station, which is among the troops that constitute the extreme right of our line of defences. This station is most easily reached by following the "corduroy" road which leads from Deep Bottom directly past it to Signal Hill and to Kautz's cavalry, and which terminates in the New Market Road, at the foot of Signal Hill.

This station, though not in an attractive spot, nor one easily accessible, was yet prosperous and successful. The agent who pitched it remained in charge till the first of February, when he was advanced to a more responsible position; and whatever of success was achieved at "White Oak" is due, under the blessing of God, to his earnest and self-denying efforts.

This part of the line being exposed, severe picket duty prevented the usual attendance upon religious meetings. Nor were all of the chaplains as much interested in religious things as they might have been expected to be, though some tried to do their whole duty.

We do not therefore infer, because on stormy and dark nights the chapel was not crowded, that the station did not accomplish great good, or that souls were not converted here. The judgment day alone can reveal the amount of good effected. Christians were revived, backsliders reclaimed, the impenitent awakened, and the awakened and convicted converted.

Following the "corduroy road," which leads by this station past Signal Hill, and keeping the New Market Road for a little more than a mile, passing through the camp of Kautz's cavalry on the right and left of the road, perfectly concealed from the enemy by a belt of pines designedly left to hide their position, we come to "New Market Station," near General Foster's head-quarters, and within a few rods of our breastworks.

The beginnings of this station date back to October, but the real work of the station did not commence until the last of November, when a log house, 20 by 18, was erected for the delegates, and a chapel, 60 by 20, for the meetings.

The latter was begun Thursday afternoon, and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God the Sabbath following.

The troops which were first interested in this chapel belonged chiefly to those regiments which went first with General Butler, and then with General Terry, to Fort Fisher; and the work of genuine religious interest among them had hardly begun when they were summoned away; some of the converts to pass from the bloody attack upon the defences of Wilmington to the bright realms of glory above.

Disappointed in a measure by the sudden departure of the men among whom they were laboring, the delegates did not relax their efforts, but directing attention to the sick men and the camp guard left behind, they obtained from these scattered materials a full house, and a most interesting work of grace was the result.

Very many of the troops here stationed were Germans, and spoke English with difficulty. Services were held for their benefit two evenings in a week in their own language. Than these Germans, more grateful men were rarely seen. They were always seeking some way in which to manifest their gratitude. Two or three would go with a team and haul wood for our quarters, one would cut it at the door, another pack it in the chapel for safety, others would try to improve the seats of the chapel, all seeking some

method of showing their attachment and kind feeling towards the delegates and the Commission. A German who had been lately converted came one day into the Quarters, and presenting three dollars to the Commission, not staying for thanks, said, as he slipped away; "One me; one me wife; one me child. Use for Christ's sake." Another came with a piece of paper, on which was written a request for a housewife. "Please give bearer, J———, a bag of comfort. He no speak English, so he get me write for him." No one need be told the happiness of the bearer on obtaining his wish. Another most interesting case was brought to our notice at this time, whose history is given below:

"At the outbreak of the rebellion, J——— was a citizen of Virginia, and a member of a company of volunteer militia. He voted with a majority of five-sixths of his town against secession. When secession was forced upon his State, and his regiment was about to be called to the support of the rebellion, he left Virginia, and secretly removed his family and a portion of his household goods to Maryland. During Lee's invasion, a short time before the battle of Gettysburg, his Maryland home was visited by a gang of rebels, who recognized him as an old neighbor, and arrested him as a deserter from the rebel service. He expected to be hung, but God mercifully spared his life. He was hurried away to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and back to Gettysburg, where he was a witness, under guard, of that terrific battle. In the confusion of the retreat, and under the cover of night, he escaped the rebel guard, and reached the Union camp. Here, through mistake, he was classed with the rebel prisoners, and sent to Fort Delaware. Upon producing proper evidence, he was, after a vexatious delay, released as a good Union man. Getting his little family together again, he took them to Pennsylvania, where he remained till Washington was threatened in the summer of 1864, when he enlisted in the early part of July in the Union Army, with the understanding that he should do duty in the State or at Washington, and should not be exposed to capture by the rebels in Virginia. Upon the completion of our chapel on the New Market Road, he was present at the services of dedication, when God met him by His Spirit, convincing him of sin, and giving him faith and repentance unto eternal life. When those desiring to enter upon the service of God were requested to give their names to the delegates of the Commission, he handed

in his name, stating as he did so that he had enlisted under a fictitious name, fearing that he might fall into rebel hands and be remembered as a deserter; but, said he most earnestly, 'I want my right name written among the people of God.'

"During the winter he was full of hope and rejoicing, and was wont in every meeting to declare his love to God and to his fellowmen. It was a rare enjoyment to hear his testimony to the grace of God. Said he one evening, with his foreign accent, 'I used to laugh at dese tings, and I find fault wid de breacher—some was too long, and some was too short, some was too big, and some was too little—but now dey just suits me. I love dem all; I love dis house; I love de word of God, and I mean to serve Him all my life. My bredren, be firm, be faithful; stand up for Jesus, and nothing will harm you. I was afraid at first myself, but I do my duty. I read my Bible; and though my wicked companions shake head and laugh, I know when dey see me in earnest, dey will soon quit dis foolishness.'

"Efforts were made to induce the military authorities to keep faith with J—— ——, and by dint of frequent visits at headquarters, and earnest effort on the part of his regimental officers, he was transferred to the North-West, to serve against the Indians, where, we doubt not, he is standing in his place, and rendering efficient service for his Master."

A little past the beginning of the year, two brigades of the Independent Division, from the Valley, under the command of General Harris, were encamped in the vicinity of the station. Many of the troops were West Virginians, and of strong Presbyterian tendencies. With their General at their head, they used to crowd our chapel in stormy as well as in fair weather, to listen to his words or to the words of the delegate whose turn it might be to lead the meeting. God's blessing attended these meetings, and converts were numbered by scores. Probably the influence of General Harris over his men, did very much to awaken and continue the interest in these gatherings. Many pious officers joined with him in his efforts to lead men to the Saviour.

This station continued to exert its influence till April 3d, the day of the occupation of Richmond, when the old chapel was abandoned, and the quarters the delegates had so long occupied, for the more stirring and exciting, but not less interesting and profitable

scenes in the rebel capital. It is impossible, in the absence of the station books, to fix upon the number of converts at this station during the period of its existence; but it could not have been less than two hundred, and probably may have far exceeded that number.

About a mile to the rear of "New Market" station, in a brigade of the Third division of the Twenty-fourth corps, commanded by General Henry, was "Henry Station," the neatest and most finely arranged station in all the armies. It was established in December, 1864, and labor here continued uninterrupted till April 3d, 1865. The chapel was a tent, forty by thirty feet, neatly seated. The tent was pitched and seated, as well as the house for the delegates, erected by soldiers who volunteered to do this work, out of pure love to the Commission, and a desire to enjoy the benefits of the meetings. The meetings were always well attended, and a steady, quiet interest pervaded them all. The state of feeling which prevailed here, may be illustrated by the following incidents.

One evening we were sitting around the fire, discussing various subjects, and among them the best way of reaching the soldiers. A soldier who had come in unobserved with one of the delegates after the evening meeting, and had sat in silence, listening to our conversation, started up with energy and great determination, and trembling in every limb, stepped forward, placed both hands upon the table, looked us full in the face, and said, with the deepest feeling, "Well, Christian brethren, I have come in to ask you to pray with me." We dropped upon our knees at once, rebuked in our hearts that we had not, some of us, noticed his anguish, and spoken to him before. Every member of our circle besought God's spirit, and then he who had asked our prayers, prayed for himself. One of our number went with the young man to his tent, and the next day he was rejoicing in his new-found hope.

Not long after, about two o'clock in the morning, the delegates were aroused by a loud knocking at the door of their tent. One of them arose, and found two men in deep distress for their soul's salvation, anxious to have the brethren pray with them. Candles were lighted, and the morning hours wore away in earnest supplication with God that he would give peace to these earnest seekers. Peace came, and through their influence many others were brought to Christ, till the number of conversions at the station exceeded a hundred. Nor was the interest confined to the meetings in our

chapel, but extended to regiments which had chaplains who held religious services among their own men.

One evening, a man belonging to a battery, three-fourths of a mile from our chapel, strayed over to the meeting. He became greatly interested in the service. When about half way home, he kneeled by a stump, and prayed. The next night, with a companion, he sought the meeting again. The stump saw two praying souls that night, and upon their return to camp they began to work for Christ, and in a few weeks, forty men out of that battery alone, found peace in believing.

Just before the Twenty-fourth corps moved to Hatcher's Run, in the last days of March, the interest in the Ambulance Corps had become so great, that a Church Union was voluntarily formed among its members, embracing the names of nearly forty men.

A chapel was set up among the cavalry, under the direction of Chaplain Harmsted of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, whose sudden death in the winter was so greatly lamented by all who knew him. Some of the roughest of the officers were in the habit of attending the meetings, and a large number of soldiers gave evidence of a change of heart, as a result of our labors here—for the death of the chaplain threw the entire religious work among the cavalry upon the Commission.

Chapel flies, of different sizes, were furnished to chaplains, who used them as coverings for many log chapels in their regiments or brigades. These rude churches in camp witnessed the outpouring of God's Spirit during the winter. Without exception, in the Twenty-fourth corps, they were scenes of a revival of more or less marked interest.

These large chapel tents and canvas roofs were a heavy expense to the Commission, but the result proved them a wise expenditure of the money of Christian givers.

In this corps, a weekly chaplains' meeting, organized at "New Market Station," continued through the winter. At these meetings, subjects of practical importance, and bearing directly upon the religious welfare of the soldiers, were discussed, and well written essays were read; the interest of the meetings being in no respect behind that of the more formal gatherings of ministerial brethren at home. Here chaplains became acquainted with each other, and with the delegates of the Commission, and a friendly interest in

each other was awakened, which will continue long after many of the more stirring and exciting scenes of the war shall fade from the memory.

BEGIN The work in the Twenty-fifth corps, (colored,) though resembling in its more general features that in the Twenty-fourth, yet differed from it in several important respects. Very many of the men could not read. It was useless to distribute reading matter among them. Something must be done to teach them. A meeting of the chaplains of this corps was called at "Butler" station, early in the winter, attended by chaplains who had ridden ten miles through rain and mud. The Commission proposed to furnish teachers, primers, blackboards, chalk, and such other aid as might be necessary, if they would at once organize schools in their regiments, and throw their influence in favor of the schools which the Commission would organize in regiments destitute of chaplains. Hearty assent was given, and resolutions of thanks passed, with a petition to the Executive Committee in Philadelphia, to endorse the proposal of their agents in the field.

The Philadelphia office responded cordially, and sent out circulars calling for fifty teachers for colored soldiers. All the primers in the market were bought up, old spelling-books were collected in many a town at the North, blackboards were made in the field, lumber was obtained from the Government for seats and writing-desks for school-rooms. Applications for canvas were multiplied, negroes in blue could be seen every where, carrying huge logs upon their shoulders for the school-house, till, as if by magic, thirty neat and commodious edifices attested the eagerness of the colored men to learn to read and write. Officers uniformly approved of the plan, and the chaplains and teachers of the Commission had only to go forward with a work so full and ripe, that in a very short time after the chaplains' meeting, at "Butler Station," schools were in progress in nearly every regiment in the 25th corps—not to be broken up till the commencement of active operations rendered the existence of regular schools an impossibility.

To facilitate this work, two very large Commission Stations were established in the corps and both being within easy reach of the enemies' guns, brought every newly arrived delegate into the peculiar sensation of the first time under fire.

"Birney Station," named in honor of Major-General William

Birney, who showed us great kindness from first to last, was located upon a hill, just in rear of Fort Burnham, and under the guns of the Rebel Fort Gilmer. It is said, however, to the credit of the Rebels, that when they learned the nature of the establishment upon the hill, with a blue flag, they agreed among themselves not to fire upon it, even in an attack on the fort.

The chapel-tent was pitched, seated and dedicated in a single day. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Edward Hawes of Philadelphia, whose people generously paid six hundred dollars for the canvas, and named it the "Hawes Tabernacle."

Ten regiments were reached from this Station. The schools were held in day and evening sessions. The men came in by reliefs, as picket and fatigue duty would allow three thousand in a week for their turn to drink at this little stream of knowledge.

They showed great eagerness to learn. Some, without any knowledge of the alphabet, learned to read in easy sentences in six days. And for the majority, according to the uniform report of the teachers, the average time required to learn to read in easy sentences, was only four weeks. They take easily the normal system, the pupils who have acquired one letter casting about at once to teach it to some one as ignorant as they were a few days before. So that a teacher, multiplied in this geometrical ratio, would very soon be felt as an educating power in an entire regiment.

The religious meetings at this station were very interesting; some of them remarkable for the power and deep feeling manifested by the colored brethren.

As an educational, civilizing, religious effort, the work of the winter was abundantly successful. It was the uniform testimony of the chaplains, and the officers of the regiments, that those taught in our schools were more obedient and respectful to their officers; discipline was improved; habits of vice were checked; and in many cases, genuine religious interest was excited.

"Wild Station," a mile to the south of "Birney," and three-fourths of a mile from Fort Brady, was conducted on the general plan above described. Schools were established in each regiment; services were held in the open air for the benefit of the regiments upon the Sabbath; and prayer-meetings attended during the week. But the great work here, as at "Birney," was the *instruction* of the men; and most gratifying were the results. Hundreds of those

who could not read at the beginning of winter, were sufficiently advanced at its close to read in the Testament; and many of them had learned to write with rapidity and elegance. It was no uncommon thing for one riding along the line of works held by this corps, to see men, at every step of his progress, reading or studying in their primers, politely bowing as he passed, as if they recognized in him the giver of the blessings they had found.

From eight to ten thousand papers per week, were distributed in this corps, and we had the assurance that they were read with quite as much care and interest, as in any part of the army. Testaments, tracts and Bibles, were also distributed freely, and at the opening of the campaign, few men marched without something to read in their knapsacks.

The demand for housewives, for thread and needles, for letter-paper, pens and ink, and for assistance in writing letters, was very great. A delegate could never sit down a moment, but some one would come to him with a polite bow, "Please, sir, will you write me a letter?" And in almost every case, they would wish their friends to know that they were enjoying the opportunity of learning to read and write, and, that they soon expected to write their letters themselves.

After the capture of Lee's army, and the return of the Twenty-fifth Corps to the vicinity of City Point, the work was, at the request of the General in command, again commenced, and from every officer in authority, from the highest to the lowest, all possible assistance was given to the delegates, who were ready to devote themselves to the instruction of the men.

And when the corps embarked for Texas, William Kirkby, Esq., the commanding corps agent, whose earnest efforts had already accomplished so much for the men, was requested to accompany them, with material for the sick, and the means for opening schools again as soon as they should go into camp.

We had at first to contend with many obstacles. Our stations were none of them comfortable or healthy, many of the teachers were young and inexperienced, the elements even were adverse to us, the wind often stripping our canvas into shreds; yet the uniform sympathy and aid received from all the officers, the affection and gratitude of the men, and the results accomplished in spite of various hinderances, make us feel, in reviewing the whole, that it was

an inestimable privilege to be permitted to organize and continue such a work as that carried on in this part of the army during the last winter. God's blessing ever attended us, and to His name be the praise.

The work of the Commission on the gunboats has been alluded to above. Some of these boats lay in the waters of the Appomattox, and were visited by delegates from the station at Point of Rocks. Religious reading was carried on board, and religious services held regularly every Sabbath, and no where were our labors more kindly received. The greater portion of the fleet, however, was in the James' River, near Jones' Landing, and the Rev. L. H. Pease, was appointed special laborer among them. He reports of his labors as follows:

"It is due to the officers of the James' River Flotilla, commanded by Commodore William Bradford, that the Christian public should know how cheerfully, and invariably they have encouraged whatever seemed likely to promote the temporal or spiritual well-being of their crew. Through the last ten months, it has been my privilege to pay them frequent visits as a delegate of the Commission, upon thirty or forty United States armed steamers lying in the James' and Appomattox.

"Unlike our soldiers, seamen would ordinarily apply at our stations, whatever is given them must commonly be carried to them. But there are none who appreciate more highly than they, what is done for them, or are more benefitted by it."

EXTRACT FROM MR. PEASE'S RECORD FOR FIRST SABBATH IN MARCH.

"This morning the Commodore and all the officers and crew were convened for religious worship, on board the flag-ship Dunbarton. We stood beneath the open sky, exposed to a piercing March wind, and had a good service. At the same hour, near by, the commander of the double turreted Monitor Onondaga, was himself conducting religious services, on board his ship. Held religious services on another ship in the afternoon. At the close, a young officer sent for me to come up on the hurricane deck, to converse with him respecting his soul. In the evening, held religious services on board another ship, in which several of the crew took part."

Mr. Pease was deeply interested in his field, and was very popular among the seamen. We have reason to believe that some of the

officers, and a large number of seamen were awakened and led to embrace the religion of Jesus. My experience leads me to believe that the amount of good accomplished on board ship, will compare favorably with the result of like effort expended among soldiers.

DIET KITCHENS.

These were established by Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, and will be properly reported by her. But, as the agent to whom eight of the ladies reported when in the field, and who had the oversight of two of these institutions at Point of Rocks, it seems fitting that I should bear my testimony to their usefulness.

Christian ladies were selected with great care by Mrs. Wittenmeyer, as managers of the establishment. Not only were they to be capable of overseeing a large kitchen and preparing choice dishes for the sick, but they were expected to be women of such talent, character and piety, as to exert a decidedly Christian influence over those whom they might meet.

The plan of the kitchens was this:—a building was erected by the Government, or by the Commission, if the Government was pressed for men; stores and furniture were furnished mainly by the funds of the hospital. A few utensils and such delicacies as could not be procured elsewhere, were supplied by the Commission.

The surgeons in their morning visits prescribed the articles of diet required by each patient. These prescriptions were consolidated into ward diet lists and sent to the kitchen, when the ladies, with the "boys" detailed to work under them, saw that the dishes required were properly prepared. These were distributed at meal time, in regular order, to the nurses who came for them, and who received the food designed for their wards in dishes made for the purpose, and were bound to see that the food reached the patient with the same care that they gave his prescribed medicine.

Some idea of the amount of work done in one of these kitchens, may be formed from the number of rations given out at a single meal,—never below one thousand, often over two thousand. Connected with each kitchen, were lady visitors, whose duty it was to go from man to man and to render those little offices, which the absent mother or wife or sister, were she there, would gladly perform for the sick soldier, and at the same time, to whisper in his ear a few words for Christ.

The testimony of Surgeons and all who were acquainted with the workings of the kitchens at Point of Rocks, was uniformly and cordially in their favor. Our only regret concerning them is, that they were introduced into our Hospitals, too near the close of the war.

The beginning of active operations in the spring, broke up all our well-defined plans, and opened another, a broad field of usefulness, but very difficult to cultivate, in as much as it was impossible to forecast the future and make such preparations as the actual result might render necessary. But the experience of previous years had, in a measure, prepared us for the demands of the last campaign, and occasions were rare when our Delegates were not on hand, as necessity demanded.

Fighting began Wednesday, March 29. The attack upon Fort Steadman, by Lee, had been made a few days before, Saturday March 25th, and signally failed. The Fifth Corps in the advance was every where victorious. In order to hold our lines, greatly extended to the left, and to turn Lee's flank, it became necessary to withdraw a part of the forces on the right, and belonging to the Army of the James, and concentrate them on the left. Two divisions of the Twenty-fourth Corps and one division of colored troops under the command of Major-General Ord, were ordered to move to Hatcher's Run. There was great bustle and activity. No one save the Generals, knew where the corps was to go. But the Commission must be prepared for any thing, so its wagons were loaded for a long march, and with the choicest stores; a party of earnest, self-denying Delegates was selected to accompany the troops, and the whole placed under the charge of S. E. Fitz, Esq., the agent of the Commission in the Twenty-fourth Corps, whose admirable powers of organization and management, gave peculiar fitness for this important responsibility.

The troops moved by night. Trains of wagons began to wind their slow length along, and by the time the morning sun cast his beams upon the abandoned camps, they had crossed the Appomattox, and were patiently moving on towards Hatcher's Run.

Our two wagons were in the Hospital Train, and when we came to broken corduroys, deep gulleys and impassable mud, there was painful anxiety lest our horses should "balk" and our work on that campaign issue in failure. But the Lord preserved us. He

heard our prayers for the success of the mission. The Twenty-fourth Corps immediately relieved the Second, and the colored division under Major General Birney, with the Sixth Corps, held the ground which the Second had formerly occupied, while the two divisions of white troops held an extended line beyond the Run.

This corps was engaged in all the fighting that took place in this vicinity. It captured Fort Gregg and aided materially in bringing about the results which secured the battle of Five Forks and the capture of the South-side Road, on Sabbath the 2nd of April.

For four days, the corps was under fire, and during this period, the wounded kept pouring into the rough Field Hospital, established near Humphrey's Station, on the Military Railroad.

Here our tents were pitched, and the work of distribution began and continued till the capture of Petersburg and Richmond, when the corps moved again, and with it went our party of laborers. The Delegates aided the Surgeons also, as far as their services were required, in washing wounds and in giving such assistance and care to the men as their condition rendered necessary. Another party of Delegates were at the cars, upon which the wounded of the Second and Fifth Corps were loaded from the ambulances, which brought them in from the far-distant field-hospitals. With sponges and water they bathed feverish wounds, and with crackers, coffee, tea and stimulants, they cheered the hungry and fainting, till all the wounded were removed to City Point, where they were met by another corps of delegates, and received all the attention, which the pressure of extra duties upon the Hospital authorities seemed to devolve upon volunteer assistants.

The fighting of the Twenty-fourth Corps was nearly ended, when the rebel capital fell. Its subsequent marches, however, were long and hard; its skirmishes, especially the one at "Rice's Station," near Farmville, were bloody and severe; its men and horses were almost exhausted, yet it never flinched, but pressed on and on —always found occupying the position it was ordered to hold.

That wonderful march of thirty miles in twelve hours,—bringing the infantry from "Rice's Station" to the support of Sheridan's Cavalry, and causing utter astonishment and discomfiture to the rebels, who had based their movements on the impossibility of such marching,—has passed into history. The presence of these troops n front of Lee, cutting off both advance and retreat, rendered his

surrender at Appomattox unavoidable. To these hardy veterans, be the honor which their stern courage and patient endurance, qualities which brought them in "at the death," deserve, and to those Delegates, who faithfully, though wearily, followed these hosts upon their long, tortuous and uncertain wanderings, and at last marched with them into Richmond, where, again issuing canvass for chapels, pursued their ordinary work, visiting among the troops, and distributing reading matter till the hot summer months passed away and the forces in and around the city were so reduced in number as to justify the Commission in retiring from the field.

Of this last work at Richmond and Petersburg, a few things should be said.

Lee's lines were pierced by the Ninth, the Sixth, the Fifth and the Twenty-fourth Corps, upon the Sabbath, April 2d. His telegram to Davis, announcing the impossibility of re-establishing them, rendered the immediate evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg, unavoidable.

Sabbath afternoon, preparations for the movement were quietly begun, and ere the bell in Capitol Square had tolled the hour of midnight, the heavy tramp of armed men and the low rumble of army wagons were heard in the streets. As the hours wore on, the panic of the citizens became fearful. The sight of burning warehouses crowded with tobacco, revealed to many a Confederate millionaire, the total loss of his wealth. As the wind veered, and the flames began to leap from house to house and from square to square, it became evident that the business part of the city must be destroyed, and that common ruin was inevitable. The faces of the spectators became ashy pale. But with stoical indifference many a rich owner stood calmly by and saw one of the wildest mobs that ever cursed a burning city break open his store in advance of the flames and carry away whatever it pleased its rapacious desire to seize. The slaves ran loose at their will. There was no power to hold them in check. They were so fully occupied plundering the burning houses, as to give their masters no fear of personal violence.

In the early morning, and while the lurid flames buried the rising sun in a sea of blood, and cinders and burning ashes filled the air, and the crash of falling buildings was heard on every side, came the most terrible of all terrors. White lips whispered, "The

Yankees are coming; those hated Yankees; the invaders, blood-hounds, full of rage and passion; robbers, ravishers and murderers."

The panic now became universal. Feeble women hid themselves in the solitude of their chambers, children nestled close to their mothers, stern men trembled and wept. The Mayor, with two or three "honorables," in a dilapidated and broken-down wagon—symbol of the Confederacy—rode out to the city limits, and upon the Osborn turnpike, near Mayo's mansion, set up a white handkerchief for a flag of truce, attracted the attention of the "invaders," and formally surrendered the city, humbly begging mercy only for its inhabitants.

The troops rode gaily into the city, crowds of negroes lined the streets, singing joyful songs of welcome, multitudes of the lower classes shouted hurrahs of gratitude for the great deliverance, but the majority of the people were sullen and undemonstrative.

The Stars and Stripes were at once raised over the Rebel Capitol. Flags long unseen suddenly came to light, and were seen waving in all the principal streets. The offices of the Rebel Government were seized, and whole piles of official documents, which the day before were precious in rebel eyes, now covered the floors and were swept into the street, or burned as so much rubbish. In an incredibly short space of time, head-quarters were established in the Jefferson Davis mansion, the City Hall, the State House, the Custom House and the Spottswood, while the negro regiments were gaily sporting in the grounds of Capitol Square.

The General commanding, upon riding into the city, instantly ordered his men to aid the fire companies in extinguishing the flames, and soldiers, white and black, spent the day with rebel citizens, in seeking to save property from destruction. One of the Generals pressed Christian Commission men into his office to act as his adjutants; and rebels who applied for mercy, got their first ideas of Yankee rapacity and blood-thirstiness, from calm and gentlemanly clergymen, who had marched with the troops in the morning, prepared to minister to those who might fall upon the expected field of battle.

In the afternoon, the vacant quarters of Provost Marshal *General Winder*,—name hateful to every prisoner's memory—were assigned for quarters to the Christian Commission, and our flags which had been waving all the day in other parts of the city, were hung out

here, directly opposite the bronze statue of Washington, in the square of the capitol.

No deeds of violence blacken our soldiers' character. Wearied with their efforts to stay the flames, they sleep quietly upon the pavements, ready to relieve guard over the property of the flying confederacy.

Early Tuesday morning, the agent of the Commission is on his way to Jones' Landing for supplies for the starving poor of the city, and for those soldiers whose excessive efforts have rendered them needy. Upon that day, our quarters are thoroughly cleaned; provisions and utensils for cooking arrive, and the work of the Commission in Richmond is begun. And what pen can describe it! There crowd around our doors a multitude of hungry, starving poor. The purple veins stand out with sad distinctness upon the foreheads of wan and pale women; their eyes are hollow and lifeless; their cheeks are sunken; their frames are weak, and their whole appearance tells a tale of sorrow and oppression which, for the credit of humanity, we could wish were untrue. A few crackers, at first, are all that we have to give. But the crowd increases. The street is almost impassable. There is jostling and pressing one against another. Women are crying: "In God's name, give me a little something to eat; my child is dying at home of hunger." A pale, sickly girl tremblingly creeps up to you, and quietly touching your arm, says: "Please, Mister, give me a little; my mother is sick, and we can't get anything to eat." Here is one with a note from a clergyman, reporting a case of unusual distress. Among so many, what have we? A few barrels of crackers, a little flour, some corn meal, a few bags of black beans, such as our prisoners on Belle Isle used to eat, a little prepared vegetable soup, a few delicacies for our own sick in the hospitals; and thousands are begging at our doors, kept out only by the bayonet of the guard, and crying and moaning, "In God's name," "In Christ's name," for something to satisfy their ravenous hunger. They do not ask for clothing, they want food. Who, with such a sight before him, could think of enemies!

Now and then, the picture of our starving soldiers at Andersonsonville, in Libby and on Belle Isle, may present itself to our minds, but it is pushed aside, and we labor with our might to feed those who have starved our brothers. Our troops too, officers and men,

seem to forget that they are among a hostile people, and generously strive with each other to alleviate the sufferings of the city.

Applicants of all classes multiply, till a telegram is sent to Philadelphia for ten thousand dollars worth of flour. The application is referred to the Union Commission at New York, and the immediate answer is five hundred barrels of flour, which are given out in cupsfull to men and women, without regard to color, of every condition—to those in rags, and to those in elegant silks.

The Union Commission carries on the work we have begun, and we are glad to turn again to our more legitimate field of labor of visiting hospitals, preaching to the soldiers, and distributing religious reading. A large lower room in the corner of the building we occupy is now fitted up for a Reading Room. Here come alike the citizen and the soldier, the minister and the layman. The latest news from the North is eagerly sought, and old papers, which during the days of battle had accumulated on our hands, are thankfully received and carefully read. Here are discussed by the divines from the North and from the South, in friendly spirit, the problem of the war, the future of the negroes, the method of reconstruction; and here too, are laid the foundations of future brotherhood between the different sections of the country, and from first to last, not a word is breathed by a citizen of Richmond against the Christian Commission; but often is it said, if this Commision represents the spirit of the North, then we have greatly misjudged it, and the work of reunion can easily be accomplished.

Our doors were open to all comers, nor were we often without guests. Representatives of the press sought our rooms, delegates from the Home Missionary Society, members of Freedmen's Societies came to us, and we had room enough, and food, such as it was, for them all. It was impossible that they should go elsewhere. There were neither lodgings nor rations to be obtained elsewhere in town.

It is not necessary to prolong this report by detailing operations about the city. We established a station in Jackson Hospital among the rebel wounded, and distributed to these sufferers, the articles which we would, in other circumstances, have given to our own men. We had a station, too at Camp Lee, among our own troops, and daily visits were made to the regiments encamped near the city. Care was taken also to learn what could be learned of the history of those who died, prisoners of war in Richmond. A part of the re-

cords of Libby prison were copied and the information thus obtained, lodged with the Individual Relief Department of our commission.

The graves of our buried prisoners were visited, coffins exposed were carefully covered; a fence was built around that part of the *Oakwood Cemetery* which contains the ashes of our brave defenders, as also around the little "God's Acre" on Belle Isle. Government provided the lumber, and furnished details of men, leaving to us the necessary supervision.

For a few weeks the returning troops furnished a field white for harvest about Washington. The heroes are in their last camps. Visions of home are before them. The experiences of war are now a story of the past. They will soon lay aside the marks of military service for the unpretending garments of civil life. What an opportunity for a few earnest parting words from those who represent the Christian sentiment of the whole north! The opportunity is seized, and God blesses the effort.

While this work went on at Washington, a party of delegates accompanied a detachment of soldiers sent by order of the Secretary of War to Cold Harbor, and helped to give Christian burial to four hundred skeletons that rebel recklessness had left exposed for nearly a year on that bloody field. All possible information in regard to the fallen was obtained and carefully preserved. The names of those who died, or fell behind the works and were buried by their comrades, were copied from the head-boards which marked their resting places. At the same time, other members of the Commission searched all the battle-fields around Petersburg and Richmond and the hospital burial grounds where an army had marched and camped for nearly a year, and copied the marks cut by soldiers in rough boards over the graves of their fallen comrades. This list increased by the record of our dead from Danville and Camp Lawton prisons to eight thousand names, was published by the Commission for gratuitous distribution among the friends of the lost.

Thus ends the history of the efforts of the Commission in the Army of the James. The results, who can estimate them? Undertaken in feebleness, but in reliance upon God, He gave success to the humble means employed. He alone made it a work whose memory is precious to all who engaged in it, and whose richest results can never be known till they are read in the light of an eternal day.

E. F. WILLIAMS, *Field Agent, U. S. C. C.*

Report of S. E. Fitz, Agent of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps.

The Twenty-fourth Corps was organized in December from the white troops of the disbanded Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, and forming the extreme right of Gen. Grant's forces operating against Richmond, as well as the right of the Army of the James, was encamped on Chaffin's Farm, north bank of the James River, seven miles from Richmond, stretching around the flank from near Fort Harrison to Deep Bottom. I was with the corps, in winter quarters on Chaffin's Farm; accompanied the First and Second Divisions, when on 27th March, they, with Birney's Division of Twenty-fifth Army Corps, United States Colored Troops, broke camp, marched to Grant's extreme left at Hatcher's Run, and participated in the final and successful attack on Lee's Petersburg lines, April 2d; marched with them in their pursuit of Lee, to Appomattox Court-House; after Lee's surrender, returned with the corps to Richmond, where it encamped until finally disbanded in August. The original Second Division formed, with a brigade of United States Colored Troops, the first Fort Fisher expedition, and the same with one brigade, First Division, formed the second Fort Fisher expedition. They were not accompanied by the Christian Commission. These troops remained in North Carolina, while their place in the corps was taken by a division, largely West Virginia men from the Shenandoah Valley. The last of February, the Third Brigade, Third Division, started on an expedition which proved to be the "Fredericksburg Tobacco Raid." They returned, March 27th, across the country from White House with General Sheridan. The uncertainty of destination, forbade our acceptance of an invitation to accompany them. On the opening of the campaign in the spring, the Third Division remained behind in the works on the north bank of the James, and entered Richmond on its evacuation, April 3d. The corps was reunited at Richmond on the 25th April. This statement of the movements of the troops seems needful, in order to an understanding of the interruptions to which the Christian Commission in this corps were subjected. Permanence of camp, so desirable for the success of direct spiritual labor with soldiers, was had to a very limited degree.

While encamped on Chaffin's Farm, there were three stations of the Christian Commission in the corps, viz: "New-Market Station," "White-Oak" and "Henry." "New-Market" remained after

my connection with the Army of the James, under the immediate care of Mr. Williams, the Field Agent, until 1st February, 1865. So of "White-Oak," until the middle of March. "Henry" was established under my direction, and so remained.

At "New-Market" and "Henry," there were well-built and floored, log, mud-plastered, canvas-roofed buildings, used as office and "living room," fifteen feet by twenty feet, besides a tent adjoining each, arranged conveniently for cooking and eating apartments. At the former was a log, canvas-roofed chapel, twenty by sixty feet, seated with logs, mud-paved, lighted by candles and comfortably heated with stoves. At "Henry" was a large chapel-tent, thirty by forty feet, spread over a firm log frame; floored with sawdust, well seated with boards, lighted with Kerosene lamps, and thoroughly warmed. The accommodations at "White Oak" were poor and inconvenient. At neither of these stations was the Christian Commission at any expense for lumber or labor; a dollar or two for nails was the only cost, aside from the canvas; the lumber and several doors came from a dilapidated house, confiscated to our use. The labor of erection was done by delegates and volunteers from the camps.

From these three Stations as centres, we worked out as we had the means. The number of delegates was always in deficiency of the demand; on an average, four or five each at "New-Market" and "Henry," two or three at "White-Oak." Earnest effort was made to have ourselves felt as a *Christian* Commission. At the stations, we gave to all callers, according to our ability, persuaded at the same time that whoever put himself voluntarily in our society expected, or at any rate, should be made to feel a religious influence. At "Henry," the chapel was kept warm as a place for quiet reading and writing by the soldiers. The meetings in the station-chapels, were held every evening, were well attended, and were favored with frequent evidences of the Spirit's presence, fifteen to forty without urgent appeal, expressing a wish for a better life. At "New-Market" and "Henry" the conversions numbered several hundreds each. The reclamation of "backsliders," was a marked feature of the meetings. At "Henry" the converts had a meeting of their own at two o'clock every P. M. Sabbath services were usually crowded, with a large attendance of officers.

In working out in the camp, it was our purpose to place a religious paper or book in every soldier's hut in the corps at least once a week. We were able to accomplish this during most of the time. When calling upon the soldiers, or in meeting them anywhere, we sought to encourage the sick and desponding, to discourage grumbling, and to impress the Delegate's Christian mission. Twice when the enemy shelled the line for several hours, and "New-Market" and "Henry" shared the danger of the camp in general, our delegates gained approval by proceeding undisturbed in their work at home and on the lines. The twelve chapel-flies distributed to chaplains did excellent service.

Throughout the winter we received the countenance and active aid of officers and men. The Christian Commission badge was the passport to attention, respect and privileges. All our cutting and hauling of wood was done regularly by volunteers from the camp, in accordance with the wishes of the officers in command. At each station a soldier was detailed as cook for us. At "New-Market," Generals Terry and T. M. Harris; at "Henry," General Guy V. Henry, were very cordial in their support and attentions. General Henry expressed the greatest interest in the Christian Commission and on the location of "Henry Station," issued to his brigade a circular, announcing our presence and purposes, and "adopting" us into the brigade.

On the 27th March, the First and Second Divisions and Kautz's (now McKenzie's) Cavalry Division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, and Birney's Division, of the Twenty-fifth Army Corps, United States Colored Troops, received orders from General Ord to break camp and march at 6 P. M. With the full approval of Dr. Morrison, Medical Director Twenty-fourth Army Corps, I hastily completed arrangements, already commenced, for accompanying the expedition, and joined the Hospital Train, with one four-horse heavy team, one two-horse lighter team, one saddle-horse, and six delegates. We marched around Petersburg to Hatcher's Run, and with the Sixth Army Corps, formed the centre in the disposition of General Grant's forces for the final onset upon the lines south of the Appomattox River. The rapid march from camp, the heavy rains and the continuous skirmishing of Friday and Saturday, sent many men to the Field Hospital, where we were able to do much for their spiritual and temporal comfort. But one victorious

charge and advance on the morning of Sunday, April 2d, especially the taking of the rebel Fort Gregg, gave us a much more extended field for work. Within fifteen minutes of the arrival of one Hospital Train upon the scene of action we had ready for distribution, hot tea and coffee, crackers and stimulants. Here we felt keenly the absence of the coffee-wagon, which had been promised, but reached City Point a day too late. The delegates worked hard and long, and late and well. We fed the men, bathed their wounds, revived the faint, aroused the few discouraged ones, received messages and valuables of the wounded, dying and dead, for transmission home, pointed those who could think, to the Saviour of souls and assisted in giving the bodies of the dead a Christian burial.

Early on the morning of the 3rd the order came to our train "harness up and hitch up," and we were soon on the march to Petersburg it seemed at first, but in a short time we turned on Cox's road in the opposite direction. I ascertained that we formed the left wing of Grant's forces in pursuit of Lee, and that we were making for Burksville by forced marches to intercept Lee's escape to Danville. I concluded to trust to Providence and follow on, though our forage was nearly gone and our supplies reduced. The Provost Marshal told us to forage upon the road for whatever we might need for man and beast, and I knew that even if we should utterly expend our stores before we could be supplied, we need not despair of service; if we could obtain rations to support the delegates our services would be of value. As rapidly as the poor quality of the roads and the obstruction of felled trees and burned bridges would permit, we pressed on up the South-side Railroad, and after a stay of half a day at Burksville reached Appomattox Court-House, one hundred and twenty-five miles from Petersburg, on the morning of Sunday, April 9th. The week's march was very severe upon the teams and not much less upon the delegates. The advantage of taking the light team was very great, for it furnished means for the delegates to ride a part of the time, so that they were quite fresh when we halted at night, and ready at once to attend to sick and wounded. Of these, we had in hospital fifty to one hundred every night, from the continual skirmishing with Lee's flank and advance. Several times we experienced difficulties which perhaps would have been insurmountable, were it not for the

attentions of the Pioneer Corps. On reconnoitering at Appomattox, the discomfiture of the rebels was seen to be thorough, and the surrender on the afternoon of the 9th stayed the scenes of carnage and victory that had filled up to the brim the fortnight previous.

The Twenty-fourth hospital at Appomattox Station of the Southside Railroad was made the receiving hospital for the sick and wounded of Grant's soldiers and prisoners; for a week we had all we could do administering to the friends and foes, who crowded the wards, our stores having been replenished by a draft upon the Fifth Army Corps agent. Mr. Cole came up with us here, and with his approval, I sent two delegates with stores, on the Railroad, back to Farmville; their work, both on the cars and for a week and a half at Farmville was arduous and timely. We repaired our wagons from the abandoned rebel trains, and on the 18th commenced return march to Burksville, and, as it proved, to Richmond, where we arrived on the 25th April, just four weeks from the time of leaving camp on Chaffin's Farm, and three weeks after the evacuation of the city. The Third Division here reunited with us, and the whole corps encamped in and about the city of Richmond.

Early in May Mr. Cole put the Richmond Station Christian Commission in my charge, the duties of which were shared by Mr. E. F. Williams, Field Agent of the Army of the James, until June 1st. After the last date until the close of the station, August 17th, I was in general charge of the work of Christian Commission in Richmond and vicinity, reporting to the Philadelphia office. *

The number of blacks applying for aid was much smaller than the number of whites; and they were more grateful. The dele-

* Mr. Fitz's opinion and account of the work of the Commission, among the poor of Richmond, omitted here, is the other side of the picture drawn by Mr. Williams. It is evident that some of the rebellious spirits of the captured Capital, did not find anything good in the Commission, except its benefactions to them, and these were accepted as their due, or as Mr. F. says, "As a part of General T.'s policy of coaxing them into good behavior." "They begged imperiously." No white clergyman gave us anything like a Christian greeting or recognition as a Christian organization. If they came to our rooms, it was to get Yankee papers, or to introduce some of their needy parishoners. Yet, there were multitudes, generally of the middle-class, who appreciated most thoroughly our whole mission. The colored preachers and all their people received us gladly, and in their times of persecution shortly after, by oppressive United States officials, our delegates were able to be of essential service to them.

gates of the Christian Commission were able to do much for the blacks in the way of advice. During the first month several delegates taught Freedmen's Schools in addition to their ordinary work. Rev. H. W. Pierson, of Ohio, by special arrangement at Philadelphia, spent six weeks in mid-summer in teaching adult blacks. We distributed to colored schools large numbers of "The Freedman" and of Testaments. Our delegates preached often in the African churches. The whites liked our "rations" but hated our gospel. The blacks worked for their own food, while they sought the gospel from us.

We at last became able to give our undivided attention to the Christian Commission work proper. On entering the city, the most pressing demands were made upon us by the rebel hospitals. These numbered at first eight or ten, containing over 5,000 patients in very great need of such aid as we were ready to give them. By the last of April the patients had been nearly all gathered at Jackson Hospital, where we established an out station of the Christian Commission. The patients at Jackson numbered at first from three to four thousand, but decreased rapidly until the first of July, when there were less than two hundred, and the station was withdrawn. The delegates at Jackson were assisted in the hospital by several rebel chaplains who worked harmoniously with us. They were not so rebellious as the city pastors. About one thousand soldiers encamped in the vicinity of Jackson were visited by the delegates located there. In the meetings held in the hospital chapel there was much religious interest. It was a strange and pleasant sight to see the Confederate and Union warriors mingle there. Strife was at an end. The wounded Confederate, and the Union soldier who perhaps had inflicted the wounds, united in worshipping a common Father, mingling their prayers that the God of peace would rule over the whole land, to bind it in one—a nation of Christian brethren. It touched the hearts of the patients to have "Yankees" treat them kindly, and when they became satisfied that we were moved only by Christian sympathy in doing for them, the spirit of rebellion gave place to gratitude, and they often said they never would have fought us if they had known us.

In May some time was occupied in attending to the fencing of the graves of Union soldiers who had died in the Richmond prisons and had been buried at Oakwood Cemetery and upon Belle Isle; a

work undertaken at the request of General Ord, commanding the department. At Oakwood, three large tracts of land, and at Belle Isle, one, were provided with a secure, white-washed, board-rail fence. New head-boards, plainly marked, were erected over the graves of those who could be identified.

When the 24th Army Corps arrived at Richmond, it was my purpose to locate one or more stations among the camps. But the camp grounds were so widely scattered, as to forbid such a disposition of the small delegate force at my disposal. The best mode of reaching the men seemed to be by means of daily visits of delegates from the city in the light wagon, and by offering the regiments the use of our chapel flies and Loan Libraries. A large number were taken and did most excellent service. Each Division was visited twice a week, and on the Sabbath every delegate who could preach, or any who could be enlisted for the service, had from three to five appointments for services.

The Corps Hospital was located at Camp Lee, two miles west of the city. At the request of Dr. Allen, surgeon in charge, I assigned a delegate there permanently, who acted as chaplain, messing with the medical staff. Dr. Allen said he would sooner be deprived of the services of one of his surgeons, than lose the Christian Commission delegate, for the latter was of more value to the hospital.

Stuart Hospital was the Post Hospital. It was visited daily. Libby Prison and Castle Thunder were occupied as military prisons; the delegates found ready admission and opportunity for doing good. Our office was central; our large reading room became a military exchange. From six in the morning till nine at night, the soldiers frequented it to read and write, and to obtain the articles we had for distribution. Two of the Christian Commission, and often more, found constant employment in waiting upon these callers, and in religious conversation with them, proceeding here as mentioned in winter quarters. For a time we held evening meetings in the Reading Room, but they were discontinued. Our distance from the soldiers, quartered in various parts of the city, forbade success in the way of meetings, except when held right among them, as was done whenever practicable. I think I never knew any undertaking of the Christian Commission pay better than this Reading Room.

When Gen. Meade's and Gen. Sherman's armies lay in Manches-

ter (as they did only two or three days,) and on their marching through Richmond, we worked hard for their benefit. Each occasion stripped us of reading and stores. Large numbers of rebel soldiers, discharged from Northern prisons, passed through Richmond during the summer. They drew largely upon us for reading and writing materials. Early in the summer, regiments began to be sent from the vicinity of Richmond, in every direction into the interior; many went home, so that by the middle of August there were only about 5,000 soldiers in the vicinity.

It becoming necessary for me to return North, in accordance with directions from Philadelphia, I broke up the station in Richmond, August 17.

In leaving the work of the Christian Commission I felt that the fifteen months spent in its service were all profit to me, and that its work upon me more than compensated all the time and pains I had bestowed upon it. I *know* that God stamped the Christian Commission with the seal of his approval and success: that thousands among the living and among the dead owe their experience of a Saviour's love to the presence of the Christian Commission in the armies of the Union; that many thousands acknowledged with gratitude the comfort and consolation of body and of mind it brought them in the camp, on the field of battle, and in the hospital; and that no History of the Rebellion will be complete without a chapter recounting the doings of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, as evidences of the Northern Christian benevolence developed by the war.

S. E. Fitz,
Agent Christian Com., 24th A. C.

The above report of Mr. Fitz is of work in a single corps—the 24th. We regret that we have not secured reports from the agents in the 2d, 5th, 6th, and 9th corps.

The 2d corps station was for a time under the charge of Rev. Mr. Emons, and afterwards Rev. R. D. Douglass. The 5th corps station was on the extreme left, where the men were frequently skirmishing and expecting daily to be called into battle. The meetings in the brigade chapel-tents and at our head-quarters in the corps were full, very interesting and sometimes painfully solemn.

Rev. George S. Chase, agent in charge, became widely known in

the corps by both officers and men, as a most efficient director of our affairs and a true friend of the soldier. Rev. Geo. A. Hall agent in the 6th Corps conducted the Commission work with great success. The nightly crowded meetings in his chapel witnessed such scenes as have never been known outside of Army lines. The night before a fight on the left, the question was put to a most solemn assembly, "How many of you that are seeking Christ are ready to surrender to Him now?" In answer some twelve or fifteen came forward and knelt by the front seat, among them an interesting youth. An old man saw him—darted out of his seat and pressing his way through the crowded aisle—threw his arms about the young soldier, sobbing, "My son, my son. He was lost and is found." Just then an Adjutant from Division Head Quarters, apologising for his intrusion, called out. "All the men belonging to —— Division fall in."

They were to march in the darkness of night, to secure a position for the attack at daylight. The men at the front seat arose, fell on each other's necks and wept. Some of them were to go. The father was not in the division ordered out. His boy was. The parting was tender and cheerful. He kissed him and said, "Go now, my boy, since the Lord is going with you." There were hurried pledges to be faithful, and then they took hold of hands all around the altar and sang, "Say brothers will you meet us on Canaan's happy shore," and hurried to their quarters to make ready to fall in. Some did not return from that fight. Two were brought into City Point Hospital badly wounded. They told us of the meeting, of their consecration, of their fearlessness in the fight, and their readiness to meet death, if it was God's will. Others came back and participated in a few more meetings in the chapel, and joined with us in our closing Communion service—the last meeting in the chapel, and the last meeting in the corps before the final movement on Richmond. It was a wonderful service, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper under marching orders. Officers, soldiers, and delegates, all united hearts and said parting words. Some of them, without doubt, would next drink of the fruit of the vine new in the Father's Kingdom. None expected to commune together again in this world; but in this they were happily disappointed. When the 6th Corps had finished its noble record of marching and fighting and came to rendezvous back of Alexandria, Mr. Hall, with his "Station" in working order, and his chapel flag flying, called

in his boys once more. The blessed meetings were resumed and on the last Sabbath before mustering out, one more Communion service was held—memorial of Christ's love. It was the place and time for testimony to that love by men who had come in to the service as His disciples, had been kept true and were returning veterans in that service, and by men who had fallen under army temptations and had been rescued, and by many who were going home after a three year's service to testify for the first time to their family and neighbors of the power of a Christian's life.

Mr. Chase followed his corps from Richmond, and put out his canvass also on the banks of the Potomac, and by a free distribution of stores to the needy, and a nightly series of meetings, gave a very pleasant close to his successful work in the 5th Corps.

Report of Rev. George N. Marden, Agent at City Point Landing, Va.

THE PARISH.

It was quite large, and very miscellaneous. A brigade of troops, perhaps two or three thousand, a regiment of engineers, a corps of carpenters, two military prisons (abounding with deserters, bounty jumpers, stray, suspected, and unruly folk generally,) a force of two or three hundred bread-makers, and a Post Hospital, with three smaller ones, containing about three hundred sick men. As base of supplies, City Point had its Commissary Depot with scores of clerks, a large working force of colored men, variously estimated at from one to two thousand, and the usual crowd of army followers. Here was received and distributed the material of war. The constant stream of recruits pouring from the North during the spring months, temporarily lodged and fed by thousands on thousands at the Government Barracks, together with daily squads of deserters from the rebel lines, constituted the floating adjunct of 'our Parish.' For ministering to the sick, for preaching the gospel in the camps, for teaching the more than willing colored people, for assisting in a thousand nameless ways the soldiers who thronged our rooms, for directing and helping on the fathers, brothers, and sometimes *wives* who came to carry home their dead; in fine, for doing good as we had opportunity unto all, here was a most ample field.

WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

Statistics can but coldly and imperfectly set it forth. During the five months included in this report, eighteen delegates, of whom nine were ministers of the gospel, labored at this station on an average of forty days each. Meetings were held in the chapel every evening, and twice on the Sabbath. In February the evening meetings were but thinly attended, except on the Sabbath, when the tent was usually well filled. After a new and commodious chapel, located near the camps, was built late in the spring, the attendance at meetings more than doubled, and considerable religious interest was manifested. There was no extensive revival at any time; there was religious interest all the time. Believers were quickened, back-sliders were reclaimed, sinners were converted. Men going to the front, and others going home, tarrying for a night at City Point, found the evening meeting and bore testimony to the preciousness of Christ, or said, "Pray for me." A confession of faith and a covenant, suited to all Christian believers, drawn up by Rev. Brother Woodend of Pennsylvania, obtained many signatures, representing many denominations and many States of the Union. This was a means of rallying Christian activity and promoting brotherly love.

On one of those days of profound grief that followed close upon the final victories, a meeting was held at noonday, in unison with thousands of loyal churches. The occasion gave this meeting a solemnity never to be forgotten. Interesting and impressive services were also held June 1st, the Day of National Mourning appointed by the President.

For several months a Sabbath evening meeting was held at the barracks of the Construction Corps. The men welcomed the delegates, and listened attentively to the preaching. One delegate spent the Sabbath in holding services and distributing religious reading on board the gunboats, where he was received with a cordiality most refreshing.

The military prisoners were not very accessible, as it was pronounced inexpedient to admit our delegates to the interior of the prison pen, but it was permitted to send in a bundle of religious papers every week. It was evidently a wretched place from which men were brought to the hospital with feet so frozen that the toes dropped off leaving bleeding stumps. It was a wicked place, for

every few days men were led forth to the gallows, or to sit on their coffins and be shot.

I have regretted that we did not respectfully insist on having free access to the needy inmates of the "Bull Pen,"—as the soldiers, with more fitness than elegance, designated the prison.

On one occasion a delegate was sent for, at the request of a colored soldier who was under sentence of death. The man was in great distress. At nine o'clock that morning he had received the awful news that he was to be shot at noon. The delegate endeavored to point the wretched man to the Saviour, and left him, an hour before noon, in a less agonized state of mind, but still crying to God to have mercy on his poor guilty soul.

Above forty thousand religious newspapers were distributed during five months. Files of the latest were sent to the Lieutenant General, to officers in command in the various departments, also to every camp, to the shipping, and to Fort Powhattan, Harrison's and Wilson's Landings. Twenty-six hundred papers were sent forth every week, and more than half of them were distributed personally by the delegates.

A library of three hundred volumes, mostly donated by friends of the soldier in Fall River, Mass., Bath, Me., and Dover, N. H., was set up, and the books went about doing good.

DISTRIBUTION BARRACKS.

For reaching the thousands of troops and recruits, sheltered temporarily here, the Commission enjoyed for several weeks excellent facilities. Captain Potter, in command when the barracks were built, cordially favoring the plan, had had two rooms partitioned off in one end of one of the long buildings; a reading and writing room furnished with tables and benches, and a room for delegates' lodging and the deposit of a few stores.

Here, right among the soldiers, two delegates, sometimes three, labored most diligently. The long writing tables were thronged at all hours, day and evening; thousands of letters were written every week. The writing materials were furnished by the Commission. Postage stamps were sold, and the letters of those who had no money were stamped without charge. Religious reading was provided. Bibles, Testaments, hymn and other books for the knapsack were given to those who asked for them. Brief meetings were held twice

a day and each evening. Hundreds expressed their gratitude for these privileges. The outward effect was that the men were more quiet and orderly, and there was much less profanity, card playing, and gambling. The delegates were working diligently for the physical and spiritual good of the soldiers when their efforts inside the the barracks had to come to a close. But the door was not quite shut to those who would do the soldiers good and not evil. It was permitted one delegate to enter the enclosure daily, and distribute reading matter, &c. Several officers, afterwards in charge at the barracks, cordially seconded the efforts of the delegates, and assisted them in relieving cases of suffering.

The *Post Hospital* was filled with sick from the camps and from the prisons. Here was a great variety of character—the noble Christian faith, the penitent heart, and the conscience hardened and seared. Every sixteen hours (according to the average in the spring months) one was carried to the dead-house. Here was a field for Christian effort, and a fruitful one, too. From my own rich experience at this hospital during my first month as delegate at City Point, I judge that no labor of the Christian Commission was better bestowed than here. The sick were ministered unto, in both temporal and spiritual things; prayers were held with them; the gospel preached from cot to cot; letters written for those who were too ill to write; the religious paper nearest home was so far as possible supplied to each patient. That there were conversions to God there was good evidence.

Army movements resulting in the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond added several new features to our work.

HELPING THE REFUGEES.

White people—many once rich, now destitute—who had been pent up in the beleagured cities were now trying to make their way to the places of their former homes or to find new ones. Women with their little children, sometimes whole families came. We could not turn them away, but gave them lodging and food for a night. "You will win our hearts by your kindness," said one refined intelligent woman whose feelings had been, and without doubt were still, with the secession that had destroyed her fortune.

"I am grateful, not alone for the shelter given us, but for the

Christian Spirit which your Commission shows," added her invalid husband.

HELPING CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.

Eight thousand Rebel prisoners came in one rainy day, and a great many religious newspapers were distributed among them, and were eagerly and thankfully received.

By and by, the fighting done, the Army began to move homeward. But not all. The Twenty-fifth Army Corps was starting for Texas. To alleviate the sickness that would inevitably occur on the crowded transports during a tedious voyage, boxes of sanitary stores were put in charge of Chaplains and surgeons and no doubt relieved and prevented much suffering.

While our troops were going victorious to the Great Review, there was a constant stream of released rebel prisoners from Point Lookout, on their way home. Ragged, faded, penniless, and going to poverty-stricken homes, some sick and feeble, wearily dragging themselves along, their condition was pitiable and it was clearly a work of Christian charity to relieve them. As far as possible this was done, and the men were grateful. These were the rank and file, sick and tired of the unsuccessful rebellion.

Among the latest offices of the Christian Commission at City Point was the relief of some of the last of the sick. A final clearing out of the hospitals (at Point of Rocks) sent two to three hundred convalescents to City Point and while awaiting the transport which was to convey them north, they were consigned to Distribution Barracks. On two mornings in succession, a cold rain storm prevailing, these men were sent from the barracks to the wharf, only to discover that the transport had not arrived, and to straggle back again through the mud and rain, to the cold and cheerless sheds, and to lie down wet at night, on a mud-matted floor with a shingled roof twenty feet above them for a blanket. Some were too feeble and exhausted to return to the barracks. To take them into our rooms, administer cordials and strengthening food, was a work of manifest necessity and mercy. Seven of these sick men begged the privilege of lying on our floor over the night; three of the seven were nearly helpless, and one was dangerously ill. They were cared for, and in the morning the sickest were assisted in getting to the

boat. They went away full of benedictions,—"God bless you for your deed."

By July 1st the troops had mainly gone, the Corps was on its way to Texas. The released rebel prisoners were scattering to their homes. Only two or three Regiments were left on guard-duty here. My health having become impaired by malarial fever, I was compelled to leave City Point and return north.

Perhaps I cannot better close my report than with the following incident. One dark and cold evening in March we had no meeting, but heard several times in the course of the evening the voice of singing proceeding apparently from the Chapel near by. On the day following, a soldier informed us that he and a brother soldier having come to the Chapel, and finding no meeting, resolved of themselves to enter and have a season of prayer. They sang, and prayed. Meanwhile an unconverted cavalryman came in and seated himself. The Holy Spirit flooded his heart as he sat there in the dark a listener to these two Christians. After a while he arose, and in deep emotion told his feelings, and asked that they would then and there pray for him. The three knelt in earnest prayer for the blessing, and on the following evening the soldier arose and testified that he had sought and found peace in believing.

In that rude chapel tent we trust many precious souls have come unto Jesus, and from it many a veteran Christian has gone forth girded afresh to work and fight for God.

GEO. N. MARDEN,
Agent C. C., City Point, Va.

Depot Hospital, City Point.

It is a cause of regret, that we have not been able to secure a detailed account of the work of the Commission at Depot Hospital, City Point. In the emergencies of army life, one agent after another, in charge of this station, was sent to other posts of responsibility.

The station had a four-fold character. It was headquarters of the Commission in the armies, operating against Richmond. It was the station at which the largest hospital work of the year, was done. It was the station from which an important religious work

was carried on among the troops in the defenses of City Point. It was the headquarters of the Individual Relief Department of the Commission.

Mr. Cole has described the construction and uses of the different buildings here erected, and spoken of the hospital work and nightly meetings in the chapel. Those meetings rarely failed to be solemn and impressive. One of the most interesting was on the night of the arrival of Sheridan's Cavalry.

They had broken camp in the Valley of Shenandoah some weeks before, had "raided" around Richmond, and now had come across from White House Landing, and camped three miles out from our chapel. When they left the valley they came from revival scenes, described by Mr. Miller in his report of the work in the Shenandoah. Many of them had set out on that great raid with a new love for Christ in their souls. Others were still seeking the Saviour, and as they were marching past City Point in the morning to take their place on the left for the advance on Petersburg, they heard a bell ring, an unusual camp sound, and when they learned that it was a call to worship in the Christian Commission chapel, they agreed to attend that night if they camped within five miles and could get permission. At night-fall there came dashing into our yard a company of cavalrymen. They crowded into our chapel, already full. They told who they were, why they had come. It was the love of Christ constraining them. Some told a convert's four weeks' experience of religion in the field; others of their sense of guilt, and desire to be saved. They had come to ask us to pray for them. Many previous meetings had we seen in that chapel, but for power and interest and the very presence of God, this surpassed them all.

Rev. S. S. Ashley had charge of this chapel and hospital work, the first part of the year, until he was assigned to the charge of the station at Fortress Monroe. In March, Rev. T. K. Noble assumed the charge, and remained till the hospital was broken up by the withdrawal of troops.

Rev. E. Loomis had the direction of the work, by the delegates, among the troops in the defenses. It consisted mainly in distribution of reading, providing places of worship, preaching, and holding prayer-meetings. It was a wide and laborious field, but most faithfully worked by Mr. Loomis. It included the camp of dismounted

cavalry, by the banks of the river. With great difficulty, a "station" was set up among them, and a chapel erected. The cavalrymen were shy of it at first, but were gradually drawn in till it became the scene of some of our most wonderful revival meetings.

Mr. Loomis' work among the colored engineers and Quartermaster's men was very satisfactory. At his instigation, the Government erected a large chapel and school-room, and hundreds of Freedmen, under the teachings of the delegates and the agents at City Point, learned to read during the winter.

The Individual Relief Department, under the direction of H. C. Houghton, was organized more thoroughly during the year, in the furtherance of the great design of the Commission to be a medium between camp and home.

It was the business of this Department, to gather such information as would give satisfactory answers to inquiries by friends at home respecting the soldiers, for whose welfare they might feel solicitous, and to convey unasked, to distant friends, early news of the death or wounds or sickness of a soldier, and to transmit by express, the effects, or any mementoes of the dead, and to help the soldier in sending home his pay and surplus baggage. This last item grew to wondrous dimensions near the close of the war. Whenever the troops were being paid off, the amounts brought into our stations varied from *fifty thousand to two hundred thousand dollars per day*, in packages from fifteen to one hundred dollars each. And when, in March, the regiments were ordered to strip to light marching order, the overcoats and surplus blankets and under clothing of the winter must be thrown away unless it could be sent home. Adams Express Company had no office beyond City Point. The private had no way of getting his box to that office. The Christian Commission runs a gratuitous express line from the front to City Point, and thousands on thousands of boxes and packages of clothing are preserved for the soldier's use, when he should reach home. Mr. H. has delivered to Adams Express Company two car loads in a day. Only twice in all the insecurity and perils of receiving and carrying money among the camps, have we suffered loss of a few hundred dollars; once by the explosion of ammunition blowing into fragments the table at which the agent was receiving money, and once by robbery among bounty-jumpers.* How large

* In both these cases, the soldiers' families suffered no loss.

a portion of the millions of money expressed home by the Commission, was actually saved from squandering, can be estimated only by those who have seen how easily a soldier rids himself of three months' pay if he attempts to carry it in his pocket.

A graphic sketch, by Rev. Wm. A. Lawrence, of

ONE DAY'S WORK IN SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY,

will give a fair view of this free express business. It is taken from a letter, dated Headquarters Christian Commission, City Point, Virginia, March 30th, 1865:

"As we came down from Hatcher's Run, two days ago, we met Sheridan's Cavalry just in from the White House, filing off to the left of our line. On reaching City Point, I found a plan was on foot to pay these flying soldiers a flying visit, and in two hours brothers Loomis, Carpenter, Roberts, French and myself, were moving out with a four-horse wagon load of supplies. We came upon Sheridan's men at ten the next morning, encamped for the day, three miles north of Hatcher's Run. We soon had our wagon 'in position' and opened upon them with a brisk fire of testaments, hymn-books, papers, writing-paper, needles, thread, &c., till we had pretty effectually silenced calls in that direction. A box of Adams' Express envelopes packed among our stores, proved a special providence, for the Paymasters came in to camp that morning and commenced paying off the regiments.

"We gave out word at once that we would express it home for them as soon as we could pitch our tent and get things in readiness. We selected a central spot near General Merritt's headquarters, floated the blue C. C. flag, cooked our own dinner in the old Atlanta campaign style, deployed brothers French, Page and Hamilton (who come up as reinforcements) as skirmishers among the camp, pitched our tent, posted brother Roberts outside with the reading matter, stationery, &c., as a sort of "advance picket," while Loomis, Carpenter and I took up a strong position behind a breastwork of boxes at the entrance of the tent, and prepared to receive the 'enemy'—the love of which is the root of all evil—in a becoming manner.

"The boys were ready with their money as soon as we were ready to receive it, and all three fell hard at work. Carpenter, veteran C. C. cashier and expressman, was in his glory. Seated on a box of farina with an empty dry goods box for a desk, and a broken

blackberry cordial bottle for an inkstand, his coat off, and taking money and names, giving Testaments and answering questions, his face radiant with benevolence and fun,—you should have seen and heard him—"Who's the next man that wants to send his money home?" "John Monoye." "How d'ye spell it?" "J-o-h-n"—"No! I know how to spell *John*—the *last* name"—"Yes my friend I hope that book will be your constant companion"—"Write to U. S. Christian Commission, City Point, for your receipt if the money don't go right." "Who's the next man? A *bundle* to send home—Loomis, that's in your department. Don't hurry boys, we shall be here all night if you don't crowd us to death before." "One hundred dollars." "Mrs. or Miss?" "All right." "Writing paper? That man outside will give it to you." "Yes, get a permit from your company commander and Mr. Loomis there will send it for you." "You're very welcome, sir, your wife will be glad to get the money, no doubt." "Christian Kempfer? I hope you are a Christian indeed. How is that?" "How much did you say?" and so on till at eleven at night, when we closed the tent, we had received two hundred and fifty-seven packages of money containing in all over twenty-two thousand dollars. We wrote out invoices till one, then put the money under our heads for a pillow and slept soundly till daylight when we were roused up, and without time to make so simple a toilet as to put on our coats, commenced expressing money again in the greatest haste.

"The whole command were ordered to move at an early hour and this was the last chance the poor fellows might ever have to send their well-earned money to old father or wife or children. At nine o'clock we had expressed their hundred and sixty-nine packages, containing over thirty thousand dollars.

"Then came the bugle order "prepare to march," "mount," and in a few minutes all around us was as silent as a prairie. The whole command had vanished and our short work was done.

"We had been among them only twenty-four hours but it seemed like a year's work of common life so crowded were the hours with opportunities to serve these dear fellows that we can reach but seldom at the best. The pleasantest part of it all was, the faith the men had in us as members of the Commission. They handed over their money to us without asking a question or taking any kind of a receipt. We were Christian Commission and they were

all right, and in this confidence was their strongest security after all; for I would work my finger to the bone sooner than by any fault of mine such men should lose and such trust be betrayed. God grant that in due time the name of Christian may mean always, "not slothful in business," as well as "fervent in spirit,"—may mean all that is noble and lovely and trustworthy—and thanks be to Him if the Commission can do anything toward bringing back to Christ once more the blessed name of Christian."

A few days after the above letter was written, while the battle of Five Forks was raging, one of Sheridan's men galloping past a delegate caught sight of the badge, reined up, fumbled under his blouse, drew out a roll of bank bills and turning it into the delegate's hand, said, "Send this to my sister, Sarah J——, she lives in ———." Before the delegate could ask the name and regiment of the unknown cavalryman he had taken his place in the line ready for action. The money was sent, and we trust the brave man came out of the fight to confirm at home his confidence in the badge of the Christian Commission.

Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

This veteran Commission station continued to do its work unto the end. Rev. W. L. Lisdale, agent in charge, by his faithfulness and unremitted toil, his zeal and love for soldiers, made it a continued power for good. Very many of our delegates going to the front here first entered army lines and received from Mr. T. their initiation to camp fare and lodging. The cheerful Christian hospitality of that canvas-covered cabin with its morning and evening altar worship fully supplied the lack of spring-mattresses and sumptuous living.

Hampton and Chesapeake hospitals kept full of sick and wounded, afforded a large field for delegate labor and distribution of stores. Our sign was an invitation gladly accepted by thousands of soldiers passing through to the front, to come in and get something to read, or make known some want hard to bear, though small in itself, and easily relieved from our stores.

Department Military Division, Mississippi, Head-Quarters Nashville, Tennessee. T. R. Ewing, Esq. General Field Agent.

This report gives in outline an account of Christian Commission operations from January first to August first, 1865.

NASHVILLE,

The base of military operations in this department naturally became the base of the Commission. Here all delegates reported for duty, and were assigned their respective fields of labor in the department. At this point all stores were received from the Central and Branch Offices of the Commission, and distributed among the troops or forwarded to other stations. Here the great amount of government business transacted, and the large number of troops continually in and around this city, made it the most important station in the department. Deacon Charles Crosby was agent in charge, and too much praise cannot be given Deacon Crosby, for the energy and judiciousness with which he discharged the very arduous and responsible duties of agent in charge. The number of government employees and hospital patients and soldiers in camp and barracks did not average less than thirty thousand. There were fewer difficulties in bringing relief to the soldiers at this than at most other stations. The government furnished us with free transportation and rent, including an elegant and commodious mansion quite well furnished and ample store-rooms and suitable reading and writing-rooms in most desirable locations; efforts to supply the physical wants of the soldiers were limited only by the amount of stores on hand. The advancement of the spiritual interests of the soldiers, was the prime object of the Commission: there were at this station special hinderances. It is difficult, without actual observation, to appreciate the fearfully demoralizing influences brought to bear on the soldiers by a corrupt city, where every unholy influence of gambling-hells, and doggeries, and dens of prostitution, is let loose on men away from home and tempted by the *ennui* of camp. The Commission by its delegates and stores, did its utmost to counteract these destroying agencies. It made itself as far as possible the chain to connect the soldier with his home. By all available and proper influences, it sought to restrain, and bring these endangered men to Jesus. Daily prayer-meetings were maintained in the basement of the M. E. Church, in several

hospitals, in what was called the "Zollicoffer Barracks," and in the "Lake Forest Tabernacle" in Edgefield, donated by Mr. Lynd. These meetings were well attended and under God were the means of comforting His children, restoring back-sliders and converting sinners. Much good was accomplished by organizing Christians into bands of brotherhood, by which they were brought together, strengthened and encouraged in the faith. The number of religious services varied with the ever fluctuating force of delegates: sometimes as many as forty were held on a single Sabbath.

The various bodies of troops were isolated from each other more at this post than at most others. This may partially account for the fact, that at no time was there marked general religious interest. It is with gratitude however that we record that never was there a total absence of special interest. Sometimes in the barracks, or in one or more hospitals or regiments, but always somewhere the work was encouraging: the Spirit of God was present and we rejoiced in seeing souls brought to Christ. In the main the delegates who labored here were instant in season and out of season, in their endeavors to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and wounded, and to lead all to enlist under the banner of King Immanuel. We cannot give them the personal mention they deserve, but without any seeming invidious distinction, mention may be made of Rev. M. C. Meech, and his labors. Himself constantly exposed to the disease for three months, from ten to twelve hours a day he visited desolate men in those pest wards. The disease seemed to be disarmed upon him by his devotion to its victims. No nurse, hardly a brother, could have been found so tireless and tender to these forlorn men. Great were his toils and privations, but greater his reward. Nearly one hundred by him were led to embrace the Saviour. I cannot close this brief notice of our work at Nashville, without referring to the labors of Mrs. E. P. Smith, who most efficiently superintended the diet-kitchens of the department, made our quarters in Nashville a real home to all connected with our work; carried delicacies to the very sick or badly wounded, and distributed reading, and talked of Christ to her "boys in blue," as she called them, wherever she found them. Her presence and attentions, brought a bright ray of home light to many a boy that never would see more of home in this world, and the earnest question from hospital cot and groups of men gathered about her ambulance in the camps, "When will you

come again?" will remain with her a more affecting and valued tribute than any that can be written.

CHATTANOOGA STATION

Was next in importance. It was surrounded by a large number of troops, and was to the Commission, as to the army, the seconding base to Knoxville and Dalton, and other points in East Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Rev. H. M. Holmes was agent in charge until assigned to the Fourth corps, when he was succeeded by Rev. T. S. Stivers. The great success attending the efforts of both these agents is the best evidence of their admirable fitness for this highly important trust. Meetings have been held at this post every night with scarce an interruption since the battle of Chickamauga. The troops were gathered so closely round the town, as to be easily summoned by our chapel bell from almost every part of the line of defences. Chattanooga was a purely military post, and offered far less degrading influences than Nashville. Nearly all the citizens had fled, or were sent away, a process that, wherever adopted, never fails to purify the moral atmosphere of a captured rebel city. For two years a soldiers' Christian League has been in most successful operation. During the series of meetings held here, the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit have come down upon thousands of sinful souls, bringing very many men back into Christ's kingdom. Surrounding circumstances were favorable, but to God's blessing on the prayers of delegates and soldiers and chaplains, members of the Christian League who believed and loved and worked together, are these happy results of religious effort at Chattanooga altogether due.

TALLAHOMA

was the place of rendezvous for the one year troops. From ten to fifteen thousand were in this camp of instruction under Major General Milroy. Inexperienced troops are always more needy than veterans. A great deal of sickness prevailed, and the list of mortality was heavy. Delegates found the chaplains, surgeons and all military officers most hearty in their co-operation for the relief of the suffering. General Milroy gave us a cordial welcome and every facility in his power. At his request delegates held services at his head-quarters every Sabbath.

KNOXVILLE

station was unfortunate in not having a regular competent agent during January and February, but under the administration of that indefatigable Christian worker Rev. M. M. Longley, assisted by faithful delegates, it regained its former reputation as an agency of relief and of spiritual help to the soldiers in Knoxville and vicinity.

BRIDGEPORT, ALABAMA.

Sergeant H. Clough, a detailed soldier who had charge of this station the previous year, on being mustered out at the expiration of his three years' service, found employment as a citizen at Bridgeport. In his love for the work and his comrades, the sergeant continued his labor for the Commission without charge for his services. Through his exertions a neat comfortable chapel was erected, with no expense except for the canvas roof. Mrs. Clough did a good work for the men in hospital, and made the Christian Commission quarters at Bridgeport a pleasant home for the delegates. About three thousand soldiers and sailors were within the reach of this station.

The station at *Huntsville*, Alabama, was also in charge of a detailed soldier, Isaac W. Coffin of the 18th Michigan. The reading and writing rooms were second in size and accomodations only to those at Nashville.

Stations without permanent agents were kept up at *Murfreesboro'*, *Columbia*, *Greenville*, Tenn., and at *Dalton*, Ga. These were were well managed by delegates, and every where were of great advantage to the soldiers. Their appreciation was shown by their numerous unsolicited contributions. On one occasion two privates contributed twenty dollars each. The delegates consented to receive these offerings only when they saw that their refusal would grieve the brave and grateful boys, who insisted on their privilege to contribute with their friends at home for the support of the Commission. At all our stations such contributions were of daily occurrence—generally from the privates—not often so large as twenty dollars, but very often given at a sacrifice of personal comfort, and always with most grateful acknowledgement of what the Commission was doing for them and their comrades.

The work in the cavalry corps was under the superintendence of Rev. C. G. Armstrong, Chaplain 4th Michigan Cavalry, who acted

as agent for the Commission while the corps lay at Eastport, Mississippi, preparing for the famous raid under General Wilson, and also at Edgefield, Tenn., after its return. With chapel tents, stores and a few delegates, he accomplished much for the other regiments of the corps during these seasons of rest, without neglecting his own. For obvious reasons the Commission could seldom do any thing for the cavalry in an active campaign. The chaplain was absent on "twenty days leave" when the corps started on the raid, and finding it impossible soon to rejoin his command, he received a detail to United States Christian Commission, and went in charge of stores shipped to the 16th Corps, reaching it at Montgomery. Returning to Nashville he met with his regiment, and again set up a Christian Commission station in the cavalry rendezvous at Edgefield, where, with chapel tents and stores for distribution, he preached and labored most efficiently and successfully. By this connection with the Commission Chaplain Armstrong was able to accomplish a vast amount for other regiments, and at the same time do more for his own regiment than most chaplains with ordinary facilities.

FOURTH ARMY CORPS.

The commencement of 1865 found this corps still in pursuit of Hood's command. Turning from this pursuit it marched to Huntsville, Ala., in February, and remained until the middle of March. Having suffered greatly from lack of suitable food and clothing on the march, the post and various field hospitals were soon filled and hospital delicacies were in urgent demand. Our rooms were opened about the middle of January, and calls for supplies were unusually pressing, from the fact that no other organization for the relief of soldiers had an agency in the corps. The Commission could only attempt relieving the wants of the most needy. Our large supply of stores was altogether inadequate. The force of delegates was also much smaller than the exigencies required, but the faithful efforts of the little band told powerfully for good. We furnished the corps with nine chapel roofs, and under these and in the Cumberland Church of Huntsville, religious services were held by the delegates and chaplains. The chaplains of this corps, with but few exceptions, were very diligent and faithful—the right men in the right places. They and the delegates improved this season of rest to the troops. The supply of delegates by no means

equalled the demand for this harvest time; and I cannot restrain the conviction that the day of results, showing how white was this field for the reaper, will cause regret to the churches and their pastors, who did not heed the urgent entreaty that went forth from every part of this corps, "Come and teach us the way of life." How anxious these men were to hear the Word. How many did hear unto eternal life. How many more might have heard if the preachers had been sent! In the latter part of February, Rev. H. M. Holmes was assigned to this corps, and continued as corps agent until June, when the corps left the department for Texas. In March the corps was ordered into East Tennessee to intercept the retreat of Lee from Richmond. From the terminus of the railroad beyond Knoxville the corps marched, stopping at Bull's Gap one week, and other points for shorter periods. Wherever a halt was made, meetings were held at once, and with good results. Finally, Greenville was reached, and there was fair prospect of remaining in camp for a considerable time. A building was immediately secured, rooms opened, writing tables set up, and soon surrounded with soldiers writing home. Two churches each night were well filled with hearty worshippers. Chaplains and delegates united in the work. It went gloriously on, though the exciting news of Lee's surrender, and the talk of "mustering out," distracted somewhat from religious thought. Then, even while the air was yet vibrating with the soldiers' jubilant shouts, and the echoes of the cannon, the telegraph announced the assassination of the President! No pen or tongue can adequately describe the wild grief and rage of the soldiers. Their expressions were as varied as their characters, and taken together constituted a more eloquent and suggestive tribute to our fallen chief than stately oration can pronounce. Major General Stanley and staff and as many other officers and soldiers as could get in the church attended religious services appropriate to the occasion. The pious soldiers poured out their common grief in the ear of our Heavenly Father.

While the troops were lying at Greenville many cases of scurvy appeared. Pickles and other anti-scorbutics were loudly called for. The swollen streams had carried off the bridges, and the "dirt roads" were otherwise in their worst winter condition; but the Quarter master furnished wagons, and Mr. Holmes pushing through his supplies was more than repaid by the grateful acknowledgments

of suffering men. No one can know the worth of a pickled cucumber till he has seen it devoured by a soldier who has marched for weeks on hard-tack and pork. With the first train that for more than a year had entered the town, through the favor of the Chief Engineer of the Construction Corps, a car laden with Christian Commission stores was brought in. Just as we were ready to repeat this supply, the corps moved back by rail to Nashville, and went into camp by Divisions about five miles from the city. The 1st on the Charlotte, the 2nd on the Harding, and the 3rd on the Murfreesboro Pike. This proximity to the base of supply gave an unwonted opportunity for carrying on our work with vigor and success. A station was established near the centre of each Division, and three delegates assigned to each station. Each delegate ministered to all the regiments of a Brigade that were destitute of chaplains, some to five, none to less than three. Every night services were held in the chapel at each station, and the delegates preached as frequently as they were able during the day in regiments. More chapel roofs were furnished this corps, and under these and in the open air the delegates and chaplains proclaimed the messages of salvation. Never was a wider door opened, and seldom has a golden opportunity been more heartily embraced. The beautiful groves where our soldiers were encamped were resonant with the praises of our God. These labors were greatly blessed in the reviving of Christians, and in the convincing and converting of sinners. But there are always hindrances to every thing good; the chief one here was the excitement in regard to going to Texas. Many were extremely opposed to going so far from home after the war had ceased. Some were almost mutinous, but no serious cotbreak occurred. Unquestionably, the religious services throughout the corps did very much to calm angry minds and dispose the troops to obedience.

The favorable influence of the Commission was felt and acknowledged by officers and soldiers. Said a captain to a delegate: "*You* do not see the result of your labor and preaching as *we* do. It reaches every part of our Division; card-playing, swearing and theft have perceptibly decreased." Said a soldier: "My comrades, most of you know me well and will think it strange to hear me speak in such a meeting as this, I never did such a thing before. You know me as the most profane man in our regiment. I have denied the existence of God and scorned religion. When you saw the light in my tent

late at night, and supposed I was writing the history of our regiment, I was carousing. I ask your forgiveness. I now am convinced there is a God, and ask his forgiveness. Do try and forget all I have said and done. By God's help I will be a Christian. Pray for me." A German Catholic came into the meeting and the Spirit of God changed his heart. He proved to be a live Christian. He read and translated tracts and papers to his comrades, and distributed the Scriptures among them, refuting objections and urging the claims of the gospel upon them. He said: "I was not satisfied before. I thought I could not get my sins pardoned without going to Chicago. I came in here, was convinced and converted, and now I can kneel down anywhere and God forgives my sins. I can can talk right to Jesus. O how differently I feel!" and his countenance testified to the joy that was in his heart. No class of men in the army more highly appreciate our work than the faithful chaplains. Many regarded it as necessary to the accomplishment of their own. Had the Christian Commission done nothing beyond provoking these brethren to love and good works, aiding them with reading and stores, and strengthening their hands and encouraging their hearts, as it has done, these results alone would have been worth all it has cost to maintain the Commission. Communion services were held in each Division. Hundreds gladly embraced the precious privilege of commemorating the Saviour's dying love. It was touching to notice strong men, heroes of a score of battles, weeping like children as they heard and obeyed the command, "Do this in remembrance of me." Our delightful work in this corps ended with its departure for Texas.

SIXTEENTH AND TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS.

Rev. Hugh McLeod, a model corps agent, was with the Twenty-third Corps, when General Thomas drove the remnant of the completely shattered and demoralized rebel army, across the Tennessee river. The weather was cold and wet, and there was much to be done for the relief of the sick and weary, constantly falling out of line by the way. From our station at Columbia, very timely relief was furnished to men in hospital and on the march. A car-load of vegetables, pushed through on the first opening of the road, was a priceless gift to the troops at Columbia. From Columbia to Clifton, it was impossible, for want of transportation, to follow with

supplies. From Clifton the Twenty-third corps was ordered to North Carolina to join General Sherman. Mr. McLeod, who had constantly been with these troops, since the commencement of the Atlantic campaign, reluctantly left them to join the Sixteenth corps at Eastport, Mississippi. Here a number of delegates were at work under direction of Chaplain Armstrong, for the men of the Sixteenth, and for the cavalry corps, close at hand. There were no buildings, and the weather was extremely severe, but Major General A. J. Smith very generously gave the Commission his headquarters boat, and pitched his tent on shore. Through this act of kindness, the stores of the Commission were protected, and the delegates made much more comfortable and efficient in their work than they could otherwise have been. A large shipment was made to Eastport, but before its arrival the Sixteenth was aboard transports under orders for Mobile. At the personal solicitation of General Smith, the goods marked for Eastport, were, at Paducah, transferred to one of his transports, and with the agent, taken along to New Orleans and then to Dauphin Island. Here, Mr. McLeod, with his canvas-covers, erected a chapel fifty by twenty-five feet, as he had done during the stay at New Orleans. The Government saw-mill furnished seats, and the wreck of a vessel on the beach, contributed material for a pulpit. The willing soldiers closed the pulpit end of the sanctuary, with small trees from the swamps. The lanterns from the ambulances, added to those of the Christian Commission, lighted the church at night, in spite of the ever fresh sea-breezes. Earnest men filled the tent at the first meeting. The marked interest that began at New Orleans at once manifested itself, and continued to deepen and widen during our two weeks' stay on the Island. Here daily work was substantially as follows:—Prayer meeting at 9 A. M., continuing usually two hours. Soldiers coming in and going out, as camp duties required, kept the tent all the time well filled without disturbing the meeting. The two hours were all fully occupied with brief speaking, singing and praying, and frequently great emotion was exhibited. An officer said: "I have been accustomed, from early life, to much that wealth and position afford, and have known as much as most men of worldly pleasure, but I assure you, my fellow-soldiers, I have never seen any place so charming to me as this tent with its floor of sand, nor have I ever known such happiness as I have found

here." And he bowed and thanked God amid fast-flowing tears. By such affecting scenes were these morning meetings, rendered most tenderly precious. From 1 to 5 P. M. reading-matter, writing materials and other articles, were distributed. The men generally went to their little "dog-tents" to read and write, but some remained in the Commission tent. Sometimes more than forty were sitting on the sand, using the rough benches as writing tables, in lieu of better ones not to be had. In the evening came the preaching service, which was prolonged, with other services, until 9 P. M. At request of soldiers a prayer meeting was appointed for the half hour preceding the preaching, and this season was so fully occupied by our soldier following another in quick succession, that it was difficult to break in upon them. If any came out of mere curiosity, they were soon brought in spite of themselves into sympathy with these soldiers wrestling with God for his blessing upon themselves and for the conversion of their comrades, who loved not the Lord Jesus. It was easy to preach. The most common scripture truths were all powerful. Could our tent have held six thousand, instead of six hundred, it would certainly have been filled. Soldiers would say: "Chaplain, we can't get in your tent. We have come, and come, and we can't get near your tent for the crowd outside. We *must* have meetings in our regiments; can you give us hymn-books?" "Certainly, and we will gladly give you all other possible help." So various other meetings were commenced. There seemed to be but few indifferent soldiers on the Island. Many expressed joy in having found the Saviour, and thousands more were inquiring the way of salvation. Five chaplains gave constant and most valuable aid. Our most difficult duty was the endeavor so to control the strong tide of emotion, as to make the most of it in establishing solid religious character. We aimed to hold up Christ constantly in view. Orders to move were received late on Saturday night, and next morning we were on the march. It was hard to leave the barren island made so precious by the favor of God. The soldiers continued to pray that morning until the tent was actually taken away, and after the canvas had been rolled up there they were yet kneeling under heaven's canopy, those earnest Christian soldiers praying God's protection on them and their comrades in the terrible work before them, for their country and for dear ones far away, whom

they might never see again. Many a brave voice faltered in this last petition.

During the investment of the strong forts defending Mobile, the work of the Commission was limited, to a great extent, to the Division Hospitals of the 16th corps; but the revival spirit was maintained in many regiments. A large and well assorted shipment from Cincinnati was received. Two weeks in the trenches without rest and with but little apparent progress had created a depression and a pressing general need. Chaplains united with us in distributing the goods. The suffering were tenderly cared for and the dead given a Christian burial. Three weeks of siege passed and Mobile was ours. Again marching orders were received. Transportation was cut down by stringent orders to the lowest practicable point, but a six-mule team was cheerfully furnished to haul Christian Commission stores. From this wagon all along the two hundred miles to Montgomery, delicacies were issued as the sick required. About noon on the 14th day after leaving Fort Blakely, we saw the city General Smith designed capturing, but General Wilson had anticipated him, so that our entrance was peaceful and we thanked God for it. None wanted more fighting. Enough of war horrors had been experienced. Then came the glad tidings of peace; the giant rebellion was at length crushed and the government restored. All acknowledged God's hand in the happy issue of the dire struggle. Officers and soldiers openly ascribed their success to Him who ruleth over all. Our exultation was short. The assassin's dark and infamous deed caused joy to flee and the desire for vengeance to fill the heart of the soldiery. But the word of command was needed to call forth the swiftest and most terrible retaliation. Something was needed to calm the angry minds and soothe the sorrowing hearts. Numerous religious services were held and the interest rapidly increased. Where there was no minister the meetings were conducted by pious officers and soldiers. The thought of home was an element of power. The soldier desired to meet his friends free from the stains of sin contracted in camp; only the blood of Jesus could avail for this. Almost every one seemed to want to come to Christ.

Chaplain Armstrong arrived from Cincinnati with a large and very valuable assortment of goods. This arrival was most opportune. The sick of the 16th, and several hundred wounded of General

Wilson's corps greatly needed stimulants, cordials, delicacies, clothing, pads and rags. No article of that excellent shipment came amiss in the seven hospitals of Montgomery. From 7 A. M. to 4 P. M. the soldiers from the regiments filled our large rooms. At 11½ A. M. the prayer meeting began, the soldiers readily dropping their pens and heartily joining in praise and prayer. They thanked God for home, country, peace, and the tokens of kindness they received from home through the Commission. These articles from home were indeed means of grace. As our rooms were on the most crowded corner of the city the singing drew a wonderful variety of costume and character into the meeting, yet perfect order and good feeling always prevailed. This was our central meeting. As soon as it was over the soldiers resumed letter writing and we continued the distribution of goods, endeavoring, of course, to accomplish the utmost possible good with what was intrusted to our care. In four weeks forty thousand sheets of paper and an equal number of envelopes were given out, and this was but little more than one *per* man. Several barrels of fresh reading matter were received from New Orleans. A Bible Agent turned over about two hundred Bibles and one thousand copies of the New Testament, the balance of a grant by the American Bible Society to the late Confederate army. Many rebel soldiers on their way home called for and received supplies of reading. Men clad in blue and in gray uniforms mingled in our rooms in most pleasant intercourse. No ill feeling manifested itself on either hand. Henceforth all would be Union men, true to the starry banner of Freedom. Most of the troops were leaving, some for the North and others for Texas; Mr McLeod had a severe congestive chill, so the few undistributed stores were placed in charge of a chaplain; and Mr. McLeod and Chaplain Armstrong steamed North on a transport filled with wounded. This work of the Commission in the Sixteenth corps received the warmest commendations from Major General Smith, and we trust that in "that day" it will be found to have had the approval of the Master.

The Loan Libraries sent to hospitals, batteries and regiments have been a great help to our work in this department. Testimonials abound on every hand to their fine adaptation to the soldier's want. No money for any reading has been better expended than that put into these choice, interesting, instructive and, at the reduced prices for which they were bought, very cheap books.

The Christian Commission ladies, who have labored in fifteen Diet Kitchens, have accomplished a large work for the soldiers, of which no record will be made except in the hearts of suffering men, who received from their hands such ministration as only those who represented mother and sister could give. In addition to superintending the preparation of suitable dishes for the sick, these ladies have done the work of delegates in the distribution of home gifts, writing letters, reading to the convalescents, and in all things declaring Jesus.

Rev. W. F. Baird, Agent of the American Bible Society, and also bearing our commission, has labored most earnestly and cordially with us. By his industry and wise management we were able, through the munificent grants of the Bible Society, to keep the army well supplied with the Scriptures.

From first to last we have received only kindness from Major General Thomas and his chief of staff, General Whipple. They have shown a personal knowledge of and interest in our work, which we hardly expected from those whose minds were occupied with so great responsibilities. To General Donaldson, chief quartermaster, and Dr. Wm. Clendenin, Medical Director, at Nashville, we are indebted for many facilities that no others could give, and without which our work would have been often hindered and greatly limited.

To all my associates in the field I desire to tender hearty thanks for their kindness and efficient co-operation, through which the Commission has been able to accomplish so much in this department for the glory of God in the relief of suffering and the saving of souls.

T. R. EWING,

General Field Agent, United States Christian Commission.

The Commission on the Gunboats in the Mississippi River.

UNITED STATES STEAMER "KATE," below St. Louis,
September 3, 1865.

REV. LEMUEL MOSS,

Home Secretary United States Christian Commission.

DEAR BROTHER:—Below is some account of the Commission's work in the Mississippi Squadron.

A graduate at Rochester University in 1862, and for some time

a student in the Theological Seminary, failing health led me into the naval service. Desiring to extend the influences of the Christian Commission to the navy, so far as I could, I obtained a commission of Dr. Nathan Bishop of New York. When detailed to this squadron in June 1864, I found that the vessels had been thought inaccessible, except when stationed where local agents could distribute papers on board; which was sometimes done, though of course only a small portion of the squadron enjoyed this benefit.

After a trip through the whole fleet from Cairo to New Orleans and return, I became convinced that it was entirely feasible to send delegates from vessel to vessel, and enable the seamen thus to enjoy their personal influence.

I made forthwith every exertion by correspondence and conversation with local agents to carry my views into effect.

The first result was that sometime last Fall packages began to be regularly furnished by the Cairo Rooms for every vessel in the squadron, directed to the care of the commanding officer of each. The authorities at the Naval Station, Mound City, promised co-operation, and repeatedly ordered the negligent officer in charge of the naval mail to put the bundles of papers, &c., on the bi-monthly dispatch boats. Thus a large amount of reading matter was distributed until the breaking up of the squadron. This good work is chiefly to be attributed to brother McClure, now at the St. Louis Rooms, and to brother Wykoff, then, and still in the rooms at Cairo. They both entered with zeal into all the plans, and faithfully kept the Commandant at Mound City informed of the fact when his subordinates failed in giving efficient co-operation.

After this plan was in operation, I met brother McIntyre, Corresponding Secretary of Peoria Branch, at the Cairo Rooms; and he gave me encouragement to believe that an agent or delegate would be sent down through the fleet on one of the dispatch boats, to survey the field and lay out the naval branch of the work. I introduced him to the then Fleet Captain, Lieutenant Commander Grier, now of the Naval Academy, and a Christian gentleman, who promised passes on any dispatch-boat, and every other facility in his power. Admiral Lee was subsequently visited, and his hearty consent obtained to visit any vessels under his command. About the time of General Hood's invasion, a large portion of the squadron were in Tennessee River, under the Admiral's immediate command. About

that time, to my great delight, brother Wykoff (of Cairo rooms,) passed through a large number of the vessels in that river. Never was a delegate better suited to the work. He was quiet, and yet incisive. He never obtruded; was almost to a fault fearful of disturbing the jealous regularity of the navy, yet, somehow had every body by the button in that persuasive, Christian way that disarmed all hostility to private, personal conference, and to which I cannot forbear paying a tribute. He created an enthusiasm on our vessel, (the "St. Clair,") and during the days passed with us held meetings, distributed little books and papers, hunted out Christians, got them together by the hand, and in short won all classes into such harmony, that our meetings, previously held, were re-invigorated, and the most heedless could say after he had gone, "I wish Mr. Wykoff could be with us all the time."

Similar success was met with on other vessels, and it was hoped that the committee now knew how the work was to be done, and would not let it rest. He himself wished no more interesting field, albeit a hard one. But the paramount claims of the army called him off to the work already established and not to be neglected. At different times delegates came on board, and Chaplain Armstrong, for a time in charge of the station in the camp, at Eastport Miss., made a trip with us down the river to Paducah. This was of scarcely less interest than the former, though only the "St. Clair" enjoyed its benefits.

We used to hold delightful meetings on Sabbath evening in the steerage. Five of our officers professed religion, and took active part, alternately leading, while I led the music with a beautiful Cabinet Organ. Our other officers, as well as the crew, were very attentive, and often and often have thoughts of home and mothers and wives and children drawn from their brave hearts the grief, and filled their eyes with the tears they were not ashamed to show. The change in the vessel, and especially in the officers' messes, was wonderful, and strangers have spoken of the "St. Clair" as the most homelike vessel in the service. The Captain (J. S. French, A. V. Lieutenant,) was a truly eloquent old salt-water hero, a wonder indeed to all who remembered under what influences his hairs had grown white, and with how little opportunity to acquire his golden speech.

Almost sacred are those memories.

This is, in sum, what I know of the Christian Commission's work in the Mississippi Squadron, and I have dwelt at so much length on the subject, because I do not know that anything has been put on record concerning your work in this part of the navy.

Yours, truly,

E. H. JOHNSON,

A. A. Paymaster, and Delegate U. S. Chris. Com.

Cleveland Army Committee.

The Cleveland Army Committee was organized May 15th 1864. Previously to that time, the suggestion had frequently been made to some of our leading Christian citizens of the importance of forming a branch in this city, but the efficient organization of the "Soldiers Aid Society" had, for some time, so fully occupied the field in soliciting supplies in the city and northern Ohio for the army, that another organization was not thought necessary, and it was not until we saw the importance of combining the sanitary and religious work among the soldiers, on a plan of giving personal relief and benefit to the soldiers, both in body and soul, by direct ministrations and distributions of Christians as voluntary unpaid laborers, that we entered upon the work.

The great success and good accomplished by the Christian Commission, under the blessing of God, is apparent to all. The testimony of soldiers to our own delegates is sufficient to more than compensate the feeble efforts of the Cleveland Branch.

The following are short extracts from letters of our own delegates showing their success in doing good, and how the sick and wounded appreciated their labors. Says one: "We are greeted as welcome messengers. Delegates of the Commission coming right from the people, and deeply feeling the soldier's wants, receiving no compensation except the satisfaction of doing good, are enabled to reach their hearts, as no others can;—even the unconverted, whose hearts are hardened by many years of sinful life, soften under the kindness of those whose actions show a Christian spirit. As we pass from one to another of the sick and wounded, we are greeted with a 'God bless you. God bless the Christian Commission.

How much more indebted to those who kindly remembed us in these trying times.'" From another: "It was plain that the labors of the Christian Commission were thoroughly appreciated by the soldiers, and I saw evidences especially, that the wounded *rebels* were surprised and softened by minstrations of those who gave them Christian compassion and aid."

Since the organization of the Cleveland Army Committee, we have sent sixty-seven delegates. No complete statement of their labors can be made. We have been careful, under the scrutiny of a special committee to whom all applications were made, to send none but first-class men, and we have the assurance of the officers, under whose direction they served, that they were such. Some three or four of our delegates have been employed as permanent delegates or agents, and have labored in the army and in hospitals from three to fifteen months.

It was sometime after our organization before we solicited sanitary supplies for the use of our society, preferring to turn into the channel of the "Soldiers' Aid Society" what was offered us, so that the amount of stores received and forwarded by us is small if compared with organizations in other cities. We have forwarded three hundred and fifty packages: most of these were sent to Philadelphia and Nashville, to be forwarded to the hospitals and battle-fields where they were most needed. Besides, frequent donations of stores have been made to the Cleveland Hospital, on the Heights. This hospital was also furnished with a loan library containing one hundred and sixty volumes.

In January, 1865, one thousand dollars were appropriated for the purchase of two chapel-tents, which were sent to Stevenson's Station in the Shenandoah Valley; from letters received in regard to the meetings held in these tents, we regard it as one of the best investments we have made. God has blessed the preaching in them to the conversion of many souls.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the whole amount of money received is about fifteen thousand dollars; paid out fourteen thousand five hundred dollars; leaving a balance on hand of about five hundred dollars.

In behalf of the Commission,

JOSEPH PERKINS,
For the Secretary.

Kentucky Branch, United States Christian Commission.

At the commencement of the year 1865, the Kentucky Branch, of the United States Christian Commission was vigorously prosecuting its work in the hospitals, camps and barracks, which had previously constituted the field of its operations. There has been no time since its organization when every point of the field was more accessible and inviting; nor has it been our good fortune at any time to be in a better condition to meet the various demands for means and laborers.

Rev. J. F. Loyd has been in charge of the station work, and his excellent wife has taken charge of our delegates' Home, and, by the concurrent and enthusiastic testimony of all delegates, has succeeded in making it a very pleasant rest for delegates passing through, and a pleasant home for all who labor here. We desire to bear testimony to the efficient management of our affairs by Mr. Loyd, to his rare devotion to his Master's service, and to his constant cheerful toil in behalf of our soldiers, that seemed accepted every day with new gladness. For the details of our work in the camps and hospitals, we refer to his report given below.

Our work has had a three-fold character,—collecting funds, attending to the army work within our reach, and forwarding or purchasing supplies for the Commission stations in Tennessee and Georgia. At times this latter part of our work was no slight labor.

At the crushing in of the shell of the rebellion our supplies and delegates were suddenly diminished. The people at home did not seem to realize that the want of both would be equally felt till the armywas disbanded; and that men broken down by their hardships and exposures during the war, would need as much care and attention as ever. Special appeals for needed means were therefore sent out, and by the blessing of God a hearty response was given.

The most remarkable event of the year with us was the rendezvous of General Sherman's army near the city in June, waiting to be mustered out. A large portion of the regiments were without chaplains, and it devolved on the Commission to supply that deficiency by its delegates, or see the war-worn veterans, who had periled their all for the salvation of our Government, neglected in their temporal and spiritual necessities.

About the commencement of the year, by the aid of the Cincin-

nati Branch, we were enabled to put up two chapels, one at Brown Hospital, and the other near Barracks No. 1, and Exchange Barracks. A delegate made Brown Hospital, with its seven hundred patients, his field of labor, and held meetings in the chapel there frequently during the week as well as on Sundays, with evident tokens of the divine favor. At the chapel in the city, prayer meetings were held in the afternoon, and preaching services at nights for a long time, with special evidences of good accomplished. Tables were arranged for writing, and supplied with stationery and good reading, so that it was occupied for a reading and writing room when not required for public religious services. In the course of the summer, the barracks were removed from the locality to a square on Broadway; and the chapel became less available for meetings, but was still used for reading and writing, and also for the storing of our supplies, whence they were distributed to the hospitals, camps and to the numerous soldiers who made personal application.

The labors of the Commission in the *diet kitchens* of the hospitals—twelve of which were under our care—have been eminently successful. The ladies employed have won for themselves and the Commission, a high reputation. As the hospitals have one after another closed, that work has contracted, till the close of Crittenden Hospital in October, left us no further field of hospital operations.

After the mustering out of General Sherman's Army, the closing of most of the hospitals, and the return to their homes of a large part of the forces below, comparatively little was left to be done. We had no delegate on the field for a while, till Rev. W. W. Meech, whose labors for the Commission from the beginning have been noticed in former reports, returning from Nashville, labored with all diligence night and day, preaching, distributing books, papers, tracts, testaments, and stationery among the troops yet at the post of Louisville, and to regiments on their way home, besides dispensing to the various hospitals whatever supplies still remained for their use. While in the midst of these labors, he was solicited by the Field Secretary at Philadelphia to go to Texas in the service of the Commission. He left us on the last of October for that purpose.

We are not willing to close this our final report without mention of our gratitude for favors received from many sources. The military commanders, the medical and quartermaster's departments have refused us no favor. On the contrary, their hearty good will has

been constantly shown in the manner they have extended all possible facilities for our work. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad has carried all the delegates for the Army of the Cumberland free during the war. To the courtesy of B. Marshall, Esq., Superintendent, we are greatly indebted for very frequent transportation of hospital stores on the mail train, when time was everything to the suffering men at the front. Adams and the American Express Company have given large amounts in free freight, and have often helped our wounded at Nashville and beyond by giving hospital stores the preference. Telegraph lines north have invariably sent our messages free. Brinley, Dodge & Company, and A. McBride, Esq., have given us free storage. J. T. Tompkins, Esq., has shown us kindness in the substantial way of rent free. Surgeons Larrabee, Octerlong, Rodgers, and Koehler have kindly and successfully attended our delegates in sickness without charge. Indeed we can say that we have found only friends in all the government officials, from the train guards and wagon masters to the Major General commanding the department. We have received such favors and consideration as are given only to a work which men appreciate and love.

No delegate in our field has died during the year. Mrs. Isabella Fogg, one of our Diet Kitchen managers, was severely injured by a fall while on duty in Floating Hospital. She reached Cincinnati on her way home, but was able to proceed no farther. She now lies in St. Luke's Hospital of that city, totally, and we fear permanently, disabled. Congress has by special act put her upon the United States pension list. We have also to mourn over the death of our two best friends in the Christian Commission work, James Parkhill, Esq., and James M. Stevens, Esq. They died during the year, and we have missed their aid, their council, and cheer. We trust it is some alleviation to the grief of family friends, as it is to ours, to remember their hearty interest in, and efficient aid to the Christian Commission.

We render humble unfeigned thanks to Almighty God for all His gracious manifestations to us and the cause he has permitted us to serve during these terrible years of war. We trust the good done has not ended with the close of our Commission, but that all who have labored will continue to reap a rich spiritual harvest in their

own souls, and will see the good seed springing up around them in all the years that are to come.

J. EDWARD HARDY,
Chairman Executive Committee.

J. RUSSELL, *Secretary.*
Louisville, Kentucky, December, 1865.

Report of J. F. Loyd, Commission Agent at Louisville.

The beginning of the year found us with crowded hospitals, resulting from the battle at Nashville on December 15th. At the same time, new recruits were hastening by thousands to reinforce the Army of the Cumberland, and to take the places of veterans whose terms of service were expiring. Every effort was made to supply these with testaments, tracts, and knapsack-books; and every night, at Barracks No. 1, and Exchange Barracks, and sometimes at the Soldiers' Home, meetings were held, often with evident tokens of divine approval. Early in January, the Cincinnati branch sent us a frame chapel, which was erected on Seventh street quite near the Barracks. This served as a reading and writing-room from half past eight in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon, which was the hour of our daily prayer-meeting. Religious services were held here also in the evenings, and twice on Sabbath. About the 1st of May the barracks were removed to the corner of Broadway and Fifteenth streets, and, through the kindness of the surgeon in charge and his assistant, a commodious room was fitted up for us, which we furnished with tables, library and seats, and dedicated to divine services. Our daily prayer-meeting and evening services were held here, while the chapel on Seventh street served as a storing and dispensing and, reading-room. Cincinnati also sent us another chapel, which we erected at Brown Hospital, three miles from the city. In each of these chapels precious souls were converted through God's blessing on the labors of the chaplains and our delegates.

Our station was highly favored as to delegates. The brethren, almost without exception coming to work for God and for souls, with the intention of spending their full term, were zealous, faith-

ful, and successful. The Lord blessed them, and we shall long remember the gracious influences we often realized in holding our weekly Conference meetings for mutual edification and encouragement.

Our work included four hospitals at New Albany, two in Jeffersonville, one at Madison, seven in and around Louisville, and one at Camp Nelson, Bowling Green, Ky.,—together with Taylor Barracks; Barracks No. 1 and Exchange Barracks on Main street; barracks on Market street; military prisons, Soldiers' Home; and the camps temporarily established near the city.

We distributed reading matter to stations along the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and its branches, and sent weekly supplies also to Frankfort, Lexington, Camp Nelson and other places in Kentucky. We also forwarded to Vicksburg, boxes of reading matter to supply our returning prisoners.

In June, the returning legions of Sherman having been ordered to Louisville, we made arrangements to do what we could for their comfort. Large shipments of stores were received from Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Purchases were made also in Louisville. The number of delegates was inadequate to the work, yet the following brief summary will show that they were not idle:—

From June 4th to August 16th,

Sermons and Addresses,	170
Individuals prayed with,	168
" conversed with on their religious state,	3,424
Testaments distributed,	9,290
Hymn and Psalm books distributed,	7,168
Religious papers, "	62,090
Pages of Tracts, "	1,755,635
Sheets of Paper, "	66,495
Envelopes, "	66,495
Letters written,	273

In addition to the vegetables, fruits, and clothing received in boxes and barrels, nine hundred and thirty-four dollars were expended in the Louisville daily markets for hospital delicacies, during these two months.

Summing up our whole distribution from the 1st of January,

we have, at a reasonable estimate, furnished to the soldiers in camp and hospital $30,000 worth of hospital stores.

The special diet kitchens, twelve of which were under our care, have been eminently successful. The ladies there employed have won for themselves and the Commission the confidence, esteem and affections of those with whom and for whom they labored; thousands of sufferers have found in their nicely prepared delicacies kind and sympathetic services and words, a partial substitute for home and its comforts.

God has blessed us and gladdened our hearts by permitting us to see some fruit of our toil. As an evidence that our work was attended with the divine sanction and blessing we present the following transcripts from our station register:

"I have found about twenty, during the week, who were seeking religion."—*W. Copelin.*

"We have conversed faithfully with the sick and wounded, and found many true seekers, and many true Christians."—*H. Law.*

"There is a growing interest in our meetings and at nearly every meeting through the week some were present, who were anxiously seeking the salvation of their souls; also a number, who are confined to their beds, are resolved to seek salvation."—*W. Copelin.*

"At a meeting held at Taylor Barracks, the Lord was present; and twenty soldiers—many of them weeping—came forward for prayers."—*D. Stirling.*

"It is enough to move the stoutest heart to see the soldiers leaving their beds and hobbling along upon their crutches and gathering around the delegate, to hear of Christ and the resurrection—many of them having left an arm, a foot, or a leg upon some hard-fought field. They seem to be much more susceptible to good impressions than our regular congregations at home.

"The men are impatient to get home. A ward-master said to me 'your talk is better than fifty bayonets for a guard.' This has been a week of interest at the Commission chapel. On Monday evening eighteen, who were not members of any church, arose for prayers. On the following evening seven of that number testified that they had found peace. On the following night this note was laid on my table: 'Dear Chaplain—As I will be on guard to-night, I take the liberty of sending you my name. I am resolved

to go home a better man than when I left it.' A sergeant from Illinois, who was dying, sent for me. His blood had almost ceased to circulate, and the death-sweats were upon him. I conversed plainly and earnestly with him. He asked me to repeat the Lord's prayer. I asked him to repeat it with me. He did so, but could scarcely whisper the closing sentence. I endeavored to encourage him, prayed with him, and tried to point him to Christ. He seemed deeply penitent; I reminded him of the hymn commencing,

'Alas! and did my Savior bleed,'

told him I would repeat it, and he might make it all the sentiment of his own heart, though too weak to repeat it. I commenced and went slowly through. As I proceeded his emotion increased. When I came to these lines:

'But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe.'

"He added—

'Here Lord I give myself away
'T is all that I can do.'

He then said, 'I do feel that God accepts me through Christ.' In a few moments he raised and clasped his cold hands in joy and triumph. Christ had given him the victory over the last enemy." *F. Ball.*

"I have greatly enjoyed this term of service. In Brown General Hospital, I had the pleasure of seeing much fruit in the happy conversion of several individuals, and in the edification and encourgemenr of many who had wandered from the 'good old way' in which they had walked at home."—*J. W. Shirer.*

These, quotations from the delegates day-book kept at the Home, could be greatly multiplied, but these are enough to show the spirit and success with which the brethren labored. It was indeed a pleasant and blessed work. We felt the presence and power of the Master. Our hearts were knit together in love. To all these brothers, delegates of the Christian Commission at Louisville, I desire to return grateful acknowledgements for their co-operation and kindness. To the committee and secretary I am under obligations for the continued favor in which they have held the work under my directions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. LOYD,

Agent United States Christian Commission.

Report of Rev. W. A. Lawrence of March from Atlanta, and work at Savannah, Georgia.

SAVANNAH, JANUARY 15TH, 1865.

REV. E. P. SMITH,

DEAR SIR.

Our mission in this Army is over. I leave for New York to-morrow; and now I ought to give you some slight sketch at least of our work since we left Atlanta. I almost wish we could forget the Commission and its duties for a moment, that I might describe a few of the striking features of this wonderful campaign. The long line of fire came pouring down on us at Atlanta like a column of volcanic lava as Sherman rolled up the railroad with him and as the rear guard came down from the Etowah. Then the awful burning of Atlanta—the long lines of blue moving silently away from the burning city and plunging into the unknown forests—who could tell whither? Then the incidents of the campaign, the crossing of swamps and rivers, the building of bridges and corduroy roads, the taking of Milledgeville, the burning of houses and depots, and railroads and bridges and villages and everything that *would* burn—the "foraging liberally on the country," the investment of Savannah, the taking of Fort McAllister, the arrival of supplies, the evacuation of the city, our triumphal entry and general jubilee,—all these would interest you much, but I have to ask you, instead, to follow the fortunes of your two agents, Arthur Lawrence and myself as we take up the line of march with the Army; Arthur in the right wing, General Howard's, and I in the left, General Slocum's.

Our object in accompanying the army, was to make ourselves acquainted with its wants and the way to meet them, and be ready to introduce such men or supplies as might meet us, at the terminus of the campaign to the Army, so as to render the most efficient assistance possible.

We expected that a march of fifteen miles a day with the delay and labor connected with three meals and camping at night would take all our time on the march, and it very nearly did it. Still there were times when we could remind ourselves of our work by carrying a poor tired fellow's gun or knapsack when the ambulances were full. Often—far too often—the ambulance moving on the same as ever becomes some poor fellow's death-bed, and at night his grave is

dug beside the road, a board roughly inscribed with his name and regiment, is put up at its head, and the poor fellow is left to his rest in the heart of rebeldom, and all we do is to take a full memorandum to send, as soon as we reach Savannah, to his friends at home, telling them when and where he was buried and all those little particulars that we know are so precious to friends as the last memento of a loved one.

Moving on in this way from day to day finding a rich, fertile country before us and leaving what the boys called a "black streak" thirty to fifty miles in width, behind us, we arrived before Savannah on the 11th of December. On the 13th Fort McAllister was taken (where one of us had the pleasure of administering a little of the rebel commandant's wine to one of his wounded men neglected by his own surgeon) and communication was open. Then for the next week we haunted the landing places at King's Bridge and the "Rice Mills," looking for supplies from the Commission. None came just then and we could not well expect them while as yet the Army was not half supplied with rations.

While waiting here, one evening we were out for a little walk and were returning through the woods near General Blair's Head-Quarters, when all at once among the thick trees on our right arose a Hymn of praise to God. Guided by the sound and the dim light of their fire reflected on the trees, we made our way to the spot and found, gathered in a half circle round a fire so shielded as to be almost invisible from the road, some twenty Christian soldiers engaged in the worship of God.

We entered the circle and joined in the hymn,

"Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb."

After the hymn was over, noticing that we were observed with some curiosity, I rose and told them who we were; that we were agents of the Christian Commission, sent along with the expedition, and were waiting for supplies; that we were the representatives of the Christian people of the North, and of their interest in the soldier; that that interest was increasing every day, as shown by the support they gave us; and I only wished that their friends at home could look in upon them now, and see how, in the midst of all the discouragement of campaign life, their hearts were still warm to-

wards God. With a few words of encouragement to an open and manly Christian life, I had finished, when one of the soldiers rose from his log seat and welcomed us in a speech which I wish very much I could report to you in full, but still some parts of it I can give almost verbatim.

"We are glad," he says, "to see the members of the Christian Commission among us. This is the Christian Association of the 44th Illinois. We number about forty members, and we have banded together for the purpose of supporting each other in our Christian course. We have held these meetings all along the march, and now we have them every evening. We feel that they do us good. Some of us have to be on guard every night, but every man is always here when he can be. We are glad the Christian Commission is along. We know the Commission. We found it at Marietta and Atlanta, and its books and papers. I don't know what we should have done without them. Tell our friends in the North that we are glad they do not forget us; that we have a good many struggles, but we still try to press on. Tell them to pray for us, and that we always pray for them." With a hearty shake of the hand, after the meeting was closed we left them, feeling better and stronger ourselves, and with firmer hopes for our country, so long as it has such prayers and such defenders.

On the 21st of December we entered Savannah. The provost marshal told me to select any rooms I pleased in the city, and they would assign them. I took a fine store on Bay street, near the Exchange and post office, about a hundred feet by forty, good ware room in cellar, and two rooms over head, very suitable for reading room and library, or office—just such quarters, and in just the location we wanted, and they were promptly assigned to us.

Hearing that supplies were at Hilton Head, but detained on account of transportation, Arthur Lawrence soon secured that by an interview with General Foster, and very soon supplies began to arrive. I fitted up our room with writing desks for fifty men at a time, and from two to three hundred letters were written daily, and those which had no stamp (about two-thirds of the whole) we stamped at night (when stamps could be had) and forwarded. For curiosity sake I counted a hundred letters taken at random one night, and found them directed, forty-two to "Mr.," thirty-five to "Mrs.," and twenty-three to "Miss." From this majority of one-sixth of the

whole for the feminine side of the house, and various other relations, in which the figures might be made to hold, those inclined to philosophize can draw their own inferences.

It was surprising to see the eagerness and thankfulness with which our supplies were received. Men, who had been without any kind of reading for almost two months, were hungry for some solid and substantial food for thought, and those who knew their families had been in an agony of suspense in regard to their safety all through the campaign, were delighted to find pen, ink, paper, writing-desk and stamps in waiting for them, free; and the stationery brought to them in camp, sometimes ten and fifteen miles from Savannah, by the chaplain. I believe there is no noble or more faithful body of men on the face of the earth than the chaplains in Sherman's army, that have held their position up to the present time. By means of the chaplain's meeting every week, we were in constant communication with them, and kept up meetings every evening that were usually crowded with soldiers eager to be instructed in the Word. Some eight or ten chaplains labored with us, distributing our stores day after day, not confining themselves to their own regiments, but acting in every respect as delegates of the Christian Commission. All the while the chaplains were distributing our stores in the surrounding camps, our rooms in Savannah were thronged from morning till night. We opened one morning at nine o'clock with a stock of four thousand books and papers, and at two o'clock, P. M. the whole were gone, and almost every one taken from the counter—a book or paper to each man who presented himself. You can judge of the continual crowd and procession of men in and out in order to have distributed that amount of stores in those five hours. It would be impossible to give you any idea of the thankfulness with which these stores of reading, thread, needles, buttons, pens, ink, paper, &c., were received by the men. Some regiments would send in a man to thank us. The "Irish Legion" gave three cheers for the Christian Commission. "There is something in Christianity after all," said a man as he left our counter one day, and such a conviction was written pretty legibly on the faces of many as they went away, who had come in carelessly "just to see what we had to sell." So the work has gone on till now the middle of January. Rev. Mr. Spencer, of the New York branch, is coming down from Hilton

Head, and I leave to-morrow for the North. Two corps of Sherman's army have already moved into the heart of South Carolina. The other two corps will soon follow, and if the army swings loose again from its base, there will be the same need of meeting them at their new base as there was at Savannah. If this brief report of our work at Savannah, shall be in the slightest degree instrumental in encouraging the Commission to be prompt and generous in their next supply for this noble army, then so long deprived of our ministrations and so eager to receive them always, then will we be as thankful to God for the success of our report, as for the success of the mission which it sketches.

I have the honor to be sir, in the Commission, very respectfully your obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. LAWRENCE.
Agent U. S. Christian Commission.

Report of the Department of North Carolina.

The combined advance of General Sherman and General Schofield into North Carolina, about the 1st of April 1865, had filled that State with our soldiers, and the hospitals at the principal military posts with sick and wounded.

The New York Branch of the Commission, working from Newbern as a base, had early established stations also at Wilmington, Goldsboro' and Raleigh. Mrs. Bickerdyke, special nurse in Sherman's army, had been supplied at the Central Office with certain stores, and accompanied by Messrs. Decker, Martin and Crane of the Commission, had established herself at Beaufort as general matron of the hospital, which contained some fifteen hundred patients in the most deplorable condition. Crane soon left from ill health, Martin remained with Mrs. Bickerdyke, and Decker—who as a business man and lately an officer in the army, was the right man in the right place,—went North at once for supplies. I met him at Washington, and the next day two hundred and twelve boxes and barrels left our Washington warehouse for North Carolina. About one half of these were left at Newbern, and the remainder sent on to Beaufort. May 1st, I was sent from the Central Office

into North Carolina, to note what was needed and especially to consult with Rev. Mr. Rodman, Agent of New York Branch, in regard to what might be done for the large number of troops in the central and western part of the State. I was received very cordially by Mr. Rodman, and went on at once to Beaufort, where I found Mrs. Bickerdyke in high spirits over the supplies from Washington; saw the "boys" at dinner, with the pickles, vegetables and delicacies disappearing with marvellous celerity; found Mr. Martin doing an excellent work among the patients, spiritually and *cheerily*, and left that afternoon for Goldsboro'. Here we had a station in charge of Mr. Selleck, with two delegates and Chaplain Allington an old acquaintance of ours at Nashville and Chattanooga. There were a few troops still here, with a camp and hospital at some distance from the station in which the delegates were at work. Going directly thence to Wilmington, I was glad to find there in charge with two men, our old Knoxville delegate, Rev. Mr. Thomas, and also Messrs. Brundette and Hoblitt of the Sanitary Commission, Chaplain Kent, and Misses Shelton and Cunningham of the Hospital Diet Kitchen, but was very, very sad to learn that Mrs. George, the true soldier's friend and mother, from Indiana, who used to work so hard on the Atlanta campaign, had just died at her post, of that terrible Wilmington fever.

Here were from two to three hundred sick, and some two thousand very destitute and sickly refugees in camp. The hospital at Smithville had one of our diet kitchens, and was well supplied by the Sanitary Commission. From Wilmington I returned to Goldsboro', and thence to Raleigh. Here I found Mr. Downer a very efficient man in charge, with three delegates, but with absolutely *no* supplies except a few cotton socks. I saw General Schofield's Chief Quartermaster Colonel Boyd, who had his introduction to the Christian Commission in Libby Prison. He gave me a very cordial promise of every proper facility on all the railroads in the State.

I had now been over the whole field of our operations in North Carolina up to the date of May 15th, and the following was

THE SITUATION.

East of Raleigh, plenty of *men*, but not enough *supplies* even at Newbern the base; still less at Goldsboro'; still less at Wil-

mington, and at Raleigh *none at all*, not so much as a newspaper or testament. But one hundred miles still further from Newbern, and west of Raleigh, lay five thousand troops at Greensboro'; fifty miles beyond and south of them, lay five thousand more at Salisbury; and fifty miles still further south, five thousand more at Charlotte. The three divisions, in short, of the Twenty-third corps—the main body of troops in the State, and unreached by either Christian or Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Rodman's line of supplies had dwindled, as we have seen, from a cart-path down to a squirrel track, and actually "gone up" at Raleigh. There was no use, therefore, in trying to push that line any further westward and so it was agreed, as I met Mr. Rodman at the station, that if anything could be done for the Twenty-third Corps, it should come from the Central Office.

I returned to Philadelphia, (stopping just long enough in Newbern to send some stores to Wilmington and Raleigh, from those left by Mr. Baugs,) and immediately on my arrival E. Snell, Esq., was sent to open, if possible, a shorter route to Greensboro and beyond, by way of City Point, South Side Railroad and Danville. Mr. Snell succeeded in getting through from Richmond to Greensboro and thence to Raleigh, where he met Mr. Woodruff and stores which had been sent meanwhile by way of Newbern, and returning to Greensboro, established a station about the first week in June, which he reported as very successful, but his health failing (a fact which is easily accounted for in a man who has been ridden once on the Richmond and Danville railroad,) he returned North without reaching the ten thousand troops farther south at Salisbury and Charlotte, or establishing the "Through Freight" line by way of City Point. But meanwhile Rev. T. R. Noble, well known in the Commission, had offered to try the experiment, and left Washington with a large invoice of stores, adding others at City Point. I soon received from him the following telegram:—"Greensboro, June 12. Agents and anti-scorbutics are needed at Charlotte and Salisbury. My stores must be distributed here. Shall return soon."

This made *two* things certain:—First, that there must be great need all along the line, as all this large invoice must be distributed at Greensboro already repeatedly supplied. How much greater then the need at Salisbury and Charlotte. Second, that Mr. Noble could not remain long enough, and had not help enough to establish

stations at these two important posts. Receiving this telegram the 13th of June, I succeeded in enlisting four tried men—Messrs. Goodwin, Love, Austin and Galcott—for the work in North Carolina, selected a good invoice of stores for a new field, and taking Mr. Decker,—my right-hand man in Washington—left for City Point. In three days we reached Greensboro, with Mr. Goodwin sick. Unshipped our stores, a process we had already repeated, several times on the way (Southern railroads have as many different gauges as there are "State Rights") divided them properly for two new stations, and next day we had left Austin with stores at Salisbury, and arrived with Deacon Love and stores at Charlotte, and *the line was up.* The chain of communication between Christain hearts at home and the farthest soldier in North Carolina was now complete at last, and I returned to Washington thankful. I shall let the work now speak for itself, in the following extracts from the letters of the laborers:—

GREENSBORO.

"Supplies arrived late to-day" (July 3d) "Shall deliver them to-morrow at Salisbury and Charlotte. Found Mr. Goodwin low; immediately removed him to Juuiata house, and now he is nearly recovered." (He soon after returned home.) "Surgeons and all recipients of Christian Commission bounty express much satisfaction and gratitude."

"*Morning, July 4th.*

"Stores distributed in season for Independence day, and never more needed or gratefully received here. It is sunrise and the windows are breaking by artillery-fire in the inclosure. I retreat hastily." "DANA WALCOTT."

I must state, before the next extract, that Mr. Decker having returned home, I was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. N. C. Brackett, formerly agent in the Shenandoah as agent for the Twenty-third Corps, and he arrived on the ground July 11th.

"*July 15th.*

"I sent brother Bennett to Greensboro with several boxes of stores. He was kindly received by surgeons, a tent and other conveniences were provided for him. The prescribing physician of the

hospital, affirmed that he believed more lives had been saved during the war by the Christian Commission than by the Medical Profession."

"N. C. BRACKETT."

SALISBURY. (OF CURSED MEMORY TO SO MANY PRISONERS.)

"ROOMS U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, MURPHY'S BLOCK,
"SALISBURY, N. C., *July* 1, 1865.

"W. A. LAWRENCE, &c.

"SIR:—I have the pleasure to report the work at this place to be of the most pleasing character. The Commission has received marked attention from the officers at this post, not because of favors bestowed or expected, but apparently because of its sacred appeal to their attention, and the fitness of its labors to the necessities of the army. Failing to find the medical director, I reported to Surgeon Beach in charge of the division hospital, and learning that his was the only hospital in the place, and that its destitution was great, I delivered nearly all the hospital stores to him, for which he gave me his receipt and sent the following acknowledgement:—

"'FIELD HOSPITAL, 2ND DIVISION, 28TH ARMY CORPS,
Salisbury, June 22, 1865.

"'MR. AUSTIN:—Allow me to assure you, as agent of your truly *Christian Commission*, that I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the receipt of the supplies you sent me this morning. Since entering the army, nearly four years ago, it has been my design that one-tenth of the income in my commission should be appropriated to charitable purposes connected with the army. If I have ever regretted that this rule was adopted, I cease to regret it at such a time as this, when just the right articles reach the afflicted at just such an opportune moment as this.

"'[Signed] W. MORROW BEACH,
Surgeon in Charge.

"I telegraphed for more supplies, and spent the interim in distributing stationery, reading matter, &c., visiting the hospital daily with such grateful gifts as I had for the sick, and pointing them to Christ. A daily prayer meeting was established in a vacant ward, but was afterwards exchanged for brief religious exercises in the different wards for the benefit of those who were unable to leave

their beds. These exercises were highly appreciated by the poor sick boys. There was a 'Confederate ward' in the hospital, where were the sick and wounded who had been left at the taking of the place by our forces. These poor sufferers were not forgotten by the Commission, and their gratitude was unbounded. They prized our publications highly; and it was truly pleasant to see the 'Christian Banner' with its stars and stripes lying upon the face of one who had so recently been fighting against it. It is but due that I should call the attention of the Commission to Mrs. Sarah Johnson, who has, much to her own personal risk and sacrifice, been constant in her attention to our soldiers as well as the Confederates, ever since the hospital for United States troops was established here. The saddest work which I have to record is in regard to the prison cemetery, to which you especially directed my attention. The records of the dead have been sent to the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C. The cemetery is said to contain five thousand—nearly all buried without coffins and in trenches, so closely that no space intervened, and oftentimes placed one upon another, when the prisoners detailed to dig the graves had failed to extend the trenches equal to the mortality. Only thirteen head-boards are to be found, which are subjoined. The cemetery of two acres contains fifteen trenches, fifteen rods in length each. The following are the only inscriptions to be found, and some of them on rough boards poorly inscribed:—

"'E. W. Bishop, Lieutenant 18th Connecticut Volunteers, died March 17, 1865.'

"'Corporal G. W. Manville, Company E, 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, United States Army.'

"'Charles S. Hamstead, Company D, 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, died February 1st, 1865.'

"'Moses Taylor, Died February 2, 1864.'

"'George Pearson, Company D, 4th Vermont Regiment, Died April 5, 1864, aged 18 years.'

"'44.'

"'26.'

"'C. C. Millet, Company H, 39th Massachusetts, died November 15, 1864.' (Masonic mark.)

"'J. C. Menenus, 7th Michigan, Company H, died November 8, 1864.' (Masonic mark.)

"'John Blackburn, of Tennessee, died December 6, 1864.'

"'J. F. Hunter, Company H, 90th Regiment, Pennsylvania.'

"'George M. Lycinger, Company H, 107th Pennsylvania, died December 18, 1864.' (Masonic mark.)

"'John Lewis, aged 34 years.'

"'T. Kimble.'

"'Charles G. Palmer, Company G, 1st District Columbia Cavalry, died January 25, 1865.' (Masonic mark.)

"'And in the garden of Mrs. Sarah Johnson, 'Hugh Berry, 5th Michigan Cavalry.'

Mr. Austin distributed here about one hundred packages of hospital stores, including twelve barrels of pickles.

CHARLOTTE.

What extracts I have given from the letters of Mr. Austin, at Salisbury, will apply almost word for word, to both Charlotte and Greensboro', as given in the letters of Dea. Love, at Charlotte, and others at Greensboro. Taking then for brevity's sake, the letters from Salisbury as a specimen, except that Salisbury was the smallest station, I need only add the following from Charlotte:

"CHARLOTTE, June 23d.

"BROTHER LAWRENCE:

"*Dear Sir*—Everything has worked well thus far. General Thomas got me the store, on the corner, and then called to see me. I find the men greatly in want. I had a great run yesterday; gave out Testaments, hymn-books and other books, paper, envelopes, thread, needles, pins, &c., almost without number. The men seem to be almost starved for Testaments and reading matter of all kinds. This station has done immense good among these needy men, especially the sick. It has already paid a thousand-fold."

I need only add the following testimony from the surgeon and chaplain of the hospital at Charlotte, which, after alluding in very complimentary terms to Deacon Love, goes on to say:—

"The Medical Director of this Division, and the chaplain of this Hospital, feel truly grateful to the Christian Commission for their timely and liberal aid by the hands of their efficient agent. It is difficult to see how we could have got along with our hundreds of sick without the delicacies so generously sent us. It was at a time when

we seemed to be remote from any efficient agency of the Sanitary Commission, and when we could get little else than the ordinary army ration, which it is well-known is wholly unsuited to the delicate taste of the sick. When the pleasantly flavored dishes of chicken, turkey, mutton and beef, were daily handed round, with canned-fruits of various kinds, with jellies, jams, butter-crackers, pickles, oranges and lemons and other good things, these brave, but suffering men, breathed a prayer to Heaven for blessings on the noble men and women of the Christian Commission. Surely benevolence is twice blessed, blessing him that gives, and him that receives.

"Nor were these prostrate heroes grateful only for these ministrations to their physical comforts; the hearts swelled with still greater warmth for the precious Bread of Life to feed their souls.

"The religious book, paper and tract were to these men, far from home and friends, during their long and weary hours of suffering, like water in a dry and thirsty land. And there can be no doubt that in multitudes of instances the seed of the Word, thus charitably sown, was made effectual unto salvation.

"Again we thank the Christian Commission and their faithful and active agent, for their kind and opportune aid to our sick and destitute soldiers. Verily, they have their reward in heaven!

"(Signed) "J. H. SPURRIEN,
Division Medical Director.
"WM. P. KOUTZ,
Chaplain 128th Ind., and Hospital Chaplain."

I ought also, to mention, before closing this report, that the posts and hospitals at Burksville and Danville were supplied from time to time with stores for the sick, as our supplies passed through those stations. In general we can say that the troops were thoroughly and liberally supplied with reading matter and stationery and the hospital supplies; a good judgment may be formed from the fact that there were five hundred and fifteen (515) boxes and barrels sent into the Department under my instructions, of which the following was one shipment (125 packages) and a fair sample generally:—39 barrels pickles, 8 boxes farina, 8 boxes Jamaica ginger, 3 boxes blackberry-root syrup, 4 boxes raspberry vinegar, 6 boxes milk, 1 box coffee, 6 boxes tomatoes, 4 boxes cornstarch, 1 box ink, box vanilla extract, pens, holders, pencils, shirts,

drawers, &c., 1 barrel potatoes, 6 barrels crackers, 1 keg tamarinds, 2 boxes jelly, 3 boxes cranberry sauce, 6 boxes lemons, 5 boxes oranges, 1 box magazines, 2 boxes stationery, 5 boxes reading.

The general usefulness of the work done is shown in the enthusiasm manifested by those engaged in it, becoming endeared to the soldiers, to each other, and to the work itself, in a way that was really touching. Mr. Brackett tells the whole story of the close in a few words, dated Greensboro, August 1st, 1865:—

"Our stores are exhausted to-day, the Twenty-third corps, as an organization, ceases to exist and we start for the North."

Thank God for the good record they left behind them, and which I trust was looked down upon with joy from above them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LAWRENCE,
General Field Agent U. S. Chris. Commission.

Sherman's Army at Washington.

On Wednesday, May 24th, 1865, General Sherman's Army passed in review through Washington and went into camp two or three miles north of the city. In their rapid march from Savannah we had been able to do but little for them, except to aid in caring for the sick that fell back into the hospital. But the men in the regiments had seen little of the Commission since our distribution at Savannah. They were now within reach and were greatly in need of such work and relief as we could give. But it must come quickly; this was the problem. Given four corps, seventeenth, fifteenth, fourteenth and twentieth, sixty thousand veterans, travel-worn, tattered and long neglected because long inaccessible in the wilds of Georgia and the Carolinas, to do the most possible for them, temporally and spiritually, *in ten days.*

With willing hearts and ready hands at command, the solution was soon reached. A station was organized in each corps and manned with six workers—one in charge of the religious work proper—one in charge of hospital supplies, and four for the general work which always combines the two.

The organization was effected and stations put up by Friday, and on Saturday with sixteen Government wagon loads of supplies, twenty-four men were at work—and at work they were. I never before saw men labor with such enthusiasm. Every night requisitions from each corps were brought into Washington, and made up, and taken out by the wagons next morning. But every day a special messenger would come in from each corps about as regular as sunrise, hot and excited and "*bent*" on having more supplies for "our corps." "More paper, more pens, more pickles, more blackberry cordial, more Testaments, more Hymn Books,—why the boys are actually starving for something to read and something to eat along with their hard-tack." "Is *that* all you can give us to-day? Why, that won't last two hours!" "Can't help it; it's your share, and there is plenty more on the way from Philadelphia—will be here to-morrow." "Those teams yesterday missed their way and didn't get to us till after three o'clock, and it's all gone now but a few shirts and some of those 'little books,' give us everything you can:" and the messenger would go back to his work again, and Mr. Decker would go on with his "hurrying up." We found a great advantage in the fact that our delegates had pitched their tents *and made their home* right in the midst of the soldiers. The "Boys" adopted them at once into that great family as soon as they saw them unpacking. "Going into camp with us, are you? That's bully; hope you won't find us here long though. Hear anything said about our being mustered out? Say, if you want any help 'bout putting up that tent (looking at some of our 'Reverends' in their shirt-sleeves, doing their best at 'lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes' of their new Zion) I'll get some of the boys over here in our company—more used to that thing than you are:—got anything good to eat in them boxes? got any writing paper?" and in two or three days the tents of the Christian Commission were as well known and as much a part of the camp as "Division Head-Quarters," and the delegates talking as naturally of "our corps" as if they had marched through from Atlanta. It was this ready sympathy on both sides perhaps that made the efforts of our delegates so *immediately* successful in promoting a religious interest among the soldiers. Each station had a large chapel tent capable of holding, in and around, its sides rolled up, as many soldiers as could well listen to one voice, and every evening these were thronged and the interest intense in

every corps, but especially in the fourteenth, General Thomas' old corps, and one in which the Commission had been able to do the most in the West. In this corps the conversions were numbered by scores, how many, of course, it is impossible to say, but it is sufficient cause of rejoicing that many were manifest. It is impossible to put on paper any adequate description of the work done in these few days, but perhaps the best way of doing something towards this will be to give a few extracts from the reports of each of the corps.

SEVENTEENTH CORPS—DR. MORRISON'S REPORT.

On May 25th, I was assigned to labor in the Seventeenth corps.

May 27th.—Went out to camp, opened stores, commenced distribution of stationery and reading matter. Had good prayer-meeting in evening; addressed the soldiers and prayed with them.

May 29th.—Preached at 10 A. M. General Leggett and large audience present. Earnest and respectful attention. At 4 P. M., preached to the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin. Addressed the meeting in tent at 7 P. M.

May 30th.—Chapel tent erected. Preached in evening to a large, earnest audience. Deep feeling among the soldiers.

May 31st.—Took part in the meetings at 10 A. M., and at 7 P. M. Interest increasing.

June 1st.—Short addresses in tent at 10 A. M. Preached at 3 P. M., in Thirty-first Illinois; large solemn meeting. Preached at 5 P. M., in 30th Illinois. In both places the regiment was brought out in full. Services had reference to the death of our lamented President. Good meeting at 4 P. M., in tent.

June 2d.—At 7 P. M., more than ordinary interest felt. Addressed in words of *caution*, *warning* and *encouragement*.

June 3d.—Preached in evening. Cheering meeting. Less noise, but deep solemn feeling.

June 4th.—Expounded scripture, and prayer. Our young brother Walcott spoke beautifully and tenderly. I addressed the evening meeting; still earnest, tender feeling.

June 5th.—Good meeting both at 10 A. M., and 7 P. M., though many gone.

June 7th.—Troops gone,—tents and stores removed to the city.

[After a few words of personal acknowledgments, the doctor goes on to say:]

The other brethren assigned to the Seventeenth corps will make their individual reports. Some of them were with us but a few days. Those who remained to the last labored most pleasantly and efficiently. We became a band of brothers in our Master's work, and are glad to remember the happy days spent under your kind supervision.

I fondly hope, that through the Spirit and blessing of God accompanying the means employed, great and lasting good may result to the souls of manyof our brave soldiers; and that eternity may unfold a bright revenue of glory, in the salvation of many precious soulsthrough Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours sincerely, JOHN W. MORRISON.

Rev. Mr. Gardner has furnished many interesting statements. My space for this corps will only allow a few extracts:

STATION OF THE CHRISTIAN COM., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
NEAR WASHINGTON,

REV. MR. LAWRENCE, *Field Agent, &c.:*

I have labored with this corps for two weeks. The facilities for work have been good, and it is evident that these war-worn veterans have appreciated the work done for them, and been spiritually blessed. I have given little time to the distribution of sanitary stores—that part of the work being assigned more especially to other hands. I have tried to do these men good, spiritually. I have attended many prayer-meetings, and preached nearly every day—Sundays twice. These meetings have been intensely interesting. The attendance has been good, and very many Christian soldiers have been quickened and encouraged in their religious life, and some have been hopefully converted to God. We hope also seed has been sown that will spring up in the future and bear fruit to the glory of God. One evening I had preached from the words, "Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." After the sermon very many testified to the saving power of His blood; and before the meeting closed something like thirty rose to request special prayer for their souls. One has expressed hope and written me the following:—

"I want to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. I will try to serve the Lord—and I hope you will pray for me that I may hold out to the end." This man subsequently told me how he went out into the

grove by the moon light to pray—how, after he knelt, two soldiers came along—how he was tempted to desist from prayer—how he was strengthened to go on with his petitions—and how he had found great peace and joy in believing in Christ. He said to me as he was about to leave with his division:—"God bless you, my brother, for coming to work for the soldiers. You have been the means of saving my poor soul."

I might give interesting extracts to almost any extent from letters received from Christian soldiers. Some speak of praying wives, some of family altars; many of praying mothers, *all* of the love of Christ. Many of the soldiers expressed themselves grateful for the work of the Christian Commission. One says:—

"God bless the Christian Commission, and the delegates, who leave their homes to come into this camp to do the soldiers good, spiritually. I have been a soldier of Christ for nearly seventeen years, and I can truthfully say, these meetings, these happy associations have done me good; and I believe not me only, but scores of others. They are to me like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. These appear to me times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord.

"If it please God that I get home soon to my wife and children, we will talk thankfully of the happy hours we spent with the dear ministers of Jesus Christ who came out to labor for the spiritual welfare of the Seventeenth Army Corps."

Such expressions as these were and are very encouraging. The work has been very sweet. Jesus has been with us. He is going home with these soldiers, and he will be "favorable to his land" for their sake.

In my ministerial life, I have seen no more decisive evidence of the power of truth and the reality of the Christian's hope, than since I have been here. May the Lord water and bless the seed—sown in feebleness and faith.

Our Christian brotherhood at the station has been delightful—a foretaste of heaven. Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist—we have been all one in Christ Jesus.

This Commission will soon close up its work,—its influence will never die. It is the marvel of the age. Such a realization of the great ideal of Christian charity as the world never before has seen. It is sublime evidence that God's people are all essentially one in

Christ Jesus; and that Christian love is the strongest power in the hearts of true believers.

"Glory be to God on high." "He maketh wars to cease under the whole heaven."

Very truly your brother,

GEORGE W. GARDNER.

TWENTIETH CORPS—FROM REPORT OF REV. S. H. LEE.

Washington, June 13th, 1865.

BROTHER LAWRENCE:—The following brief report of my work is submitted according to your request. Being placed in charge of the religious work in the corps, I shall state facts of a general nature and such as concern myself particularly.

Religious services were held every Sabbath in different parts of the corps by the delegates, and on other days, when strength was sufficient. But our principal religious meetings were held in the chapel. It was no sooner erected than it was filled. The first evening (there being yet no seats) the ground was covered with attentive hearers. The soldiers of Sherman's Army having been entirely deprived of all privileges, religious, intellectual and social, were hungry for meetings. One said he had not been to such a service for a year, and it seemed like getting out of prison, to get into a place of prayer. Preaching of the plainest, most direct kind, was listened to with solemn interest. I never saw an audience more attentive and appreciative. Throughout our stay this continued to be the character of our meetings,—full, solemn, earnest. After the sermon, the soldiers were very free in conducting the social meeting. Those prayer-meetings were models. I wish it were possible to open one of them to the view of every church in stiff New England. It would be a lesson which many a good deacon would never forget, and it might inspire many a young man properly to improve and appreciate his advantages. The numbers did not diminish till the regiments began to move for home.

Rev. James Land says:—"I entered upon my work as a delegate of the Christian Commission, on the 24th of May. With the exception of the first day (when I visited the Michigan Brigade of Sheridan's Cavalry) my time has been spent with the Twentieth Army Corps. My time was given chiefly to the Second Division, in distributing reading-matter, paper, thread, pencils, &c. As I dealt

out supplies, I took occasion to converse with the men on the interests of the soul. A 5th Connecticut soldier gave a very interesting account of his experience. He said that after a long struggle, one night as they stopped on a march through South Carolina, he fell down by the trunk of a pine tree and gave himself up to God. I was distributing papers among the men of the one hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania. One man said: "Boys, there are some Christians left yet." Another said: "God bless the Christian Commission." And another, "I owe my life to the Christian Commission."

FIFTEENTH CORPS.—FROM REPORT OF REV. A. K. MOULTON.

Sunday, May 28th.—This is a strange Sabbath to me. I have spent many in the western wilds, but none before in a military camp. The jargon is intense. Bugles and drums, and mules and men, all contribute to disturb the hallowed stillness which should prevail. Weather beautiful.

The soldiers crowd around our tent, and we, nothing loath, deliver to them religious papers and Testaments without count. Writing paper, pens, ink and envelopes too are called for constantly. At about eight o'clock we undertook to carry out the programme on which we had agreed last evening in mutual consultation, as follows:—Chaplain Porter and brother Ayer, went to the meeting held by the Chaplain of the First Division. Brothers Gallagher and Purrinton went to the Second Division. Brother Libby and myself went to the Fourth Division, (there being no Third,) leaving brother Sanford to take care of the station—Mr. Jones and Mrs. Bickerdyke having gone to town. Every one of the brethren took one hundred papers and twenty-five Testaments, and each two were to extemporise meetings, and preach if possible. Brother Libby and myself soon exhausted our stock, and sent back two soldiers for three hundred newspapers and fifty more Testaments, while we got up a meeting. I spoke to the soldiers from the words of Paul:—"Fight the good fight of faith." And brother Libby followed with remarks. The soldiers joined with us in singing, and seemed devout and attentive, and some were deeply affected. After meeting in the afternoon the brethren went through the camp. Like the ancient repairers of Jerusalem, the brethren of this station "have a mind to work," and besides their industrious dispositions, they are

men of piety and intelligence, as it seems to me, and amply qualified for the position they occupy.

May 29th.—We are all very busy, and a soldier from Michigan, a Methodist licensed minister, who has formerly been employed as a Christian Commission delegate, has taken hold to labor with us. By eleven o'clock, I had distributed one hundred and fifty Testaments and papers, and all kinds of stationery in proportional quantity. The brethren have all been equally diligent giving out among other things three barrels of tomato and onion pickles which have been clutched and devoured by the soldiers with the voracity of wolves. A little over half a pint to a man has been the average in distribution.

Apple butter, dried apples, and dried fruit and berries of various kinds, and various remedies for camp diseases (with which the soldiers are terribly afflicted), some hundreds of shirts and drawers, &c. have been distributed; and as I looked on and saw the half-famished soldiers, in tattered uniforms, entreat the brethren for aid, my emotions almost overpowered me.

Mr. Sanford started for Washington, to hasten our supplies, but before his return, Mr. Lawrence came to our tent and seemed to approve our course heartily, [which, indeed, I did, except that I was afraid that their "course" would soon be run, unless they had more rest. Brother Moulton had to have a surgeon called in, and came very near dying. W. A. L.]

May 30th.—Mr. Porter and Mr. Gallagher, have been absent laboring in the camp, but the day has been mainly spent by the balance of our company at our tent, receiving our supplies, opening and arranging, and delivering them. Among other things we have delivered one large barrel of pickled cucumbers, and one keg of the same, almost literally one at a time; one keg of apple butter, one barrel dried apples, (for the sick exclusively;) other dried fruits in the same way, condensed milk, &c., with Testaments, and other reading matter, in the shape of tracts and pamphlets and papers. We find an unabated demand for our camp disease remedies. We have social meetings for prayer and conference every evening.

May 31st.—Our Corps is rapidly moving away. It is ordered to Louisville.

We witnessed to-day the marching of two brigades. The exhibitions of wild delight of the soldiers, as they started on their way, I

cannot describe. They leaped into the air with their guns, their heavy knapsacks, haversacks, blankets, and camp kettles—half enough to load a mule—they shouted at the top of their voices. Many were too feeble to indulge in all these manifestations of joy, but they were greatly relieved.

To-day in our rambles in the 4th division, brother Libby and myself found four men engaged at a game of cards—not at all an unusual occurrence—and after considerable haggling we bargained for the cards to be exchanged for religious reading. Our bargain attracted considerable attention, and by the time we got the cards we had a pretty good congregation, with whom we sang and prayed and preached for forty minutes. Many wept freely.

June 1st.—As this is fast day, we had a prayer meeting appointed for 6½ A. M., and preaching at 10. The prayer meeting was very interesting. By 8½ o'clock we had distributed over four thousand papers, and other things in proportion. At 9 A. M., brother Libby and I started for the 14th Army Corps, General Morgan, commander of 2nd Division, in which we intended to locate, gave us a kind welcome and assured us of his aid if we needed. Chaplain Morris, of the 113th Ohio, and other brethren were holding fast day meeting near head-quarters of 2nd brigade. At the close there was a hearty and unanimous vote of the soldiers for us to pitch our tents on that spot. This had been already suggested by General Morgan.

The above diary of brother Moulton tells its own story better than any elaborate argument or history. The 15th corps was gone, and we "concentrated" that station on the 14th Corps, 2nd Division.

FOURTEENTH CORPS.—REPORT OF MR. CHASE.

"W. A. LAWRENCE, &c.:—The work of the Commission at our station was of a very interesting and gratifying character. The station was set up May 26th, and continued nineteen days. There were received and distributed during the time allowed us ninety-eight boxes and barrels of Christian Commission stores, including fifteen barrels of pickles, twenty-five hundred Testaments and about fifteen thousand religious papers. Nearly every day three meetings were held in the chapel tent, and occasionally meetings in the open air at different points. Our supplies were gladly received by the

men. They were much in need of clothing. The demand for this was always greater than we could satisfy, though we were generously supplied."

PART OF REV. M. C. STEBBINS' REPORT.

"At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the 27th of May, brother H. and myself, having been assigned to labor with the Fourteenth Army Corps, left the rooms of the Christian Commission, on Tenth street, in the city of Washington, to enter upon our work in the field. Our conveyance was an army wagon drawn by four mules. Into this we climbed, and found a place among the boxes of 'Soldiers' Reading,' 'Hospital Stores,' &c., that were soon to be dealt out to the men who had just completed their great achievements in fighting, enduring and marching. Having been dragged and jolted for about three miles in a northeasterly direction, over a rough and muddy road, we brought up at our station, in an orchard, right under the guns of Fort Bunker Hill. Our pioneers were upon the ground and had already erected the chapel tent: [it is noticeable that our delegates always "erect" their tents. W. A. L.] They were still busily engaged in pushing forward preparation for the work. We were soon at work opening and distributing our stores, at the same time announcing the appointments for religious services on the morrow. Hundreds went away bearing some religious paper, tract or book; or with pens, paper and envelopes, to write home once more to their friends. About seventy-five were gathered at our first preaching service on Sabbath morning the 28th of May: the number was larger in the afternoon, and still larger in the evening. From day to day the audience grew, and the interest deepened. On the Sabbath there were three preaching services, the one in the evening followed by a season of free conference and prayer. During the week the usual order was a prayer-meeting at ten o'clock, also at one o'clock, and at half past seven o'clock in the evening preaching followed by a season of prayer and conference. We did not have to wait long for evidences of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit."

REPORT OF DEACON ROBERT LOVE.

"The main army had arrived, and the great review had passed. By your direction we pitched our tents in the Fourteenth Corps, in Sherman's Army, near Washington. Here in our chapel tent we

established daily prayer-meetings, and preaching every night. Here again God heard the prayers of his people, and Christ was manifestly present, by his Spirit in the conviction and conversion of sinners. The work was deep and pungent upon the hearts of these men, so much so that they would rise and request prayer for themselves with deep penitence for sin, and would very soon come into the sunlight of the Gospel, and at once testify for Christ, talk and pray in all our meetings, and soon become strong Christians. It would have rejoiced me above measure to have had Northern Christians and Northern churches look in upon our meeting, and see the crowds of men that attended, and heard Christians and young converts bless and praise the Lord for the chapel tent and for the good meeting and for the means of grace sent them with so many temporal comforts, so soon after their arrival in the Lord's country. The arrival of General Sherman's Army in Washington was not unlike the children of Israel going into Canaan, after wandering in the Wilderness forty years. In conclusion I would say that if there ever was an institution on earth, that had its origin in heaven, it is the United States Christian Commission."

Very truly,

ROBERT LOVE,

Delegate of United States Christian Commission.

The following is a summary of the principal articles of the *material* part of our work, distributed in Sherman's Army in those four days:

938 Bushels Potatoes,	972 Papers of Pins,
94 Barrels Pickles,	132,990 Papers,
4,368 Cans Condensed Milk,	15,444 Knapsack Books,
1,187 Bottles Blackberry Cor.,	19,529 Copies Scripture,
2½ Tons Dried Fruit,	8,240 Hymn Books,
57 Boxes Shirts,	9,840 Pens,
24 " Drawers,	4,872 Pen Holders,
3,100 House-wives,	648 Pencils,
2,737 Combs,	288 Bottles Ink,
10,000 Needles,	73,440 Sheets Paper,
91 Pounds Thread,	78,500 Envelopes,

In conclusion there are many things that might be said about the work, but the best has been said, in simply stating what the work was.

I have to thank Chaplains Critchfield, McFarland and Porter, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Bickerdyke, Mrs. Buell of Washington, and Miss Borden of Fall River, the Chaplains generally and the agents and delegates of the Commission, for their helping hands. May God bless them, and the brave men still living that we labored for.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LAWRENCE,

General Field Agent, Sherman's Army.

Report of Christian Commission work in Texas.

BY JOHN A. COLE, ESQ., GENERAL FIELD AGENT.

After the surrender of the rebels in Virginia, Major General Sheridan was assigned to the command of the Department of the Gulf, and a large force consisting of the Twenty-fifth corps, Fourth corps and portions of the Cavalry corps were ordered to Texas. The Twenty-fifth corps sailed from Fort Monroe about the first of June, and after a tedious passage landed on the Texan coast at Brazos de Santiago. One agent of the Christian Commission Mr. William Kirkby accompanied the troops, taking a large supply of reading and hospital stores with him and receiving also additional supplies from New Orleans as he passed that city. Going as they did, in the heat of summer from a northern latitude and, after a long sea voyage, being exposed to severe marches, they suffered severely from sickness, particularly among the colored regiments. The distribution of stores which the agent of the Commission was able to make at this time, although insufficient to relieve the great distress upon every hand, was a great assistance and blessing to many. In the month of August, Rev. S. J. Orange and wife came from St. Louis with a large invoice of reading and hospital stores, furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission. They established stations at Houston and Hampstead and distributed their stores

among the Cavalry. In September a more thorough system for the Commission work was entered upon, and ten experienced agents and delegates were sent to establish stations at different points. In a few weeks these stations, every where welcomed by the soldiers, were in successful operation at New Orleans, Brazos, Brownsville, Indianola, and Austin, so situated that nearly every regiment in the Department was reached by their influence. One thousand boxes of hospital stores and reading have been distributed from them.

A short sketch of each station will perhaps give the best view of the nature and success of the work.

Brazos. This station, although established mainly as a "base" for other stations in the District, has an important field of its own. Every facility has been granted by General Clark, Commander of the Post. Six regiments and a large Post Hospital are supplied from this station. The hospital is visited regularly and a delegate officiates at all burials. A school is held in the rooms each day for the colored soldiers. Mr. William Kirkby has the charge of the Commission in this Corps, and has been assisted at the station by Rev. W. W. Meech, who in the two months ending December 31st had preached thirty-four sermons besides other addresses. The only regiment here that has a chaplain has been furnished with a tent for a chapel, and all have been supplied with school-books.

Brownsville.—Three hospital tents, pitched upon a vacant lot in the centre of the town, have been open every day for the distribution of stores, reading and writing materials. The tent has been arranged with seats for evening meetings. Papers, books, and hospital stores are sent from time to time from this station to the troops on the upper Rio Grande. This station has proved very useful.

Brownsville Post Hospital.—At this station Rev. Jeremiah Porter and wife and Miss Gary are laboring—Mrs. Porter having charge of the Light Diet kitchen, and Miss Gary teaching a school for colored soldiers. This hospital is constantly visited by these delegates, and the patients are assisted in every way which kind hearts can devise for their good. Mr. Porter holds meetings at the hospital, and also in the camps in the vicinity.

The following extracts from Mr. Porter's reports will show, in part, the nature of the work performed. Under date December 11th, he writes:—"Last evening in our hospital prayer-meeting, six colored men arose to request our prayers for them, forty having

previously stood up to denote their trust in Christ. There is much religious interest among both white and colored troops. Mrs. Porter is managing the Light Diet Kitchen with great satisfaction to surgeons and patients: many are greatly comforted by her means daily, and some attribute their convalescence to her care. Our stores:—fruits, berries, butter, cheese, soda-crackers, etc., were most timely. Our reading matter affords great pleasure. — Last Sabbath evening, a soldier from Illinois, who seemed near death, sent for me. Hastening to his cot I found him very low, but his mind was very clear and he seemed resting in Christ. After I had read and prayed with him he wished me to sing,

I'm but a traveler here;
Heaven is my home, &c.

"As I am not a singer I went to our tent and asked Miss Gary to go with me and sing with the dying man. She did so. He wished several hymns sung. He selected: 'Oh for a closer walk with God.' He wished me to write to his parents, brothers and sisters and bid them meet him in heaven."

Separate Brigade Station.—Rev. Hugh McLeod is laboring here, having a large marque tent for religious services. A few extracts from his reports will give the best idea of the good work which is going on there.

He writes on December 11th:—"I am with the so-called 'Separate Brigade,'—all that is left of the 13th Army Corps. There are five regiments from as many States, numbering in the aggregate on the ground some two thousand enlisted men besides officers. This is my present parish. Neither of these regiments has had a chaplain since they came to this State. The men were needing most pressingly everything in our line. They were feeling aggrieved at Government keeping them so long in the service after the war was over; and forgotten by everybody. This depressed state had its bad influence, resulting in general recklessness, where temptations, as here, met our noble boys on every side. I was received most warmly by all. They could hardly realize that I was sent so far by 'home friends' to do them good. The food I brought, for body and mind, was valued as having come to them from home, and a hungry and homesick man alone can fully prize such things. Our brigade Thanksgiving service was held in the Commission chapel tent. The commander set a good example by

his presence to his officers and men, and our tent was filled. This service did much, by the divine favor, in bringing about the present deep thoughtfulness, so general throughout the brigade. We have services every night. At the meeting last night the tent was full, and the feeling deeper than at any previous meeting. Some ten profess to have met with a change in their feelings and purposes since our meetings began; others are asking what they shall do to be saved. Every one is willing to be talked with—many are seriously thinking."

On January 11th, he writes:—"With the exception of two nights, our meetings have continued during the month. We have three services on the Sabbath, and a meeting for inquiry and prayer, each forenoon at 9 o'clock. The first day of the year was observed by all the Christians in the brigade as a day of fasting and prayer. Sin has an unusually strong hold here, especially in the matter of intemperance; but there is a change going on in this particular. The more than two hundred books in our 'Loan Libraries' are out nearly all the time. There is but *one* English book in it as I write. No man is allowed to keep a book more than a week; so they circulate freely." On January 15th, he writes:—"The religious work seems to be taking a deeper and wider hold. The meetings last night and to-night were both of solemn interest." Two weeks later, Mr. McL. says:—"Christ and His salvation are the theme now on every hand. On Sabbath evening all except twelve in our crowded tent stood up either as Christians or earnestly desiring to become such. On Monday evening all but five stood up; on Tuesday evening all but three; and last night all but one. All the regiments in the brigade share in the blessing."

Indianola.—At this station, Mr. H. B. Town is laboring. In addition to sustaining a fine reading-room and library for the use of the soldiers here, Mr. Town has distributed stores to nearly every regiment in the Fourth corps, as they were embarking for home; giving the sick many articles of food and clothing, and by these without question, saving not a few veterans from a soldier's burial by the way. Meetings are held for colored troops in the church—interesting and well attended. Papers and stores have been sent from here to San Antonio, Victoria, and other inland towns. School-books have been distributed among the colored troops to great advantage.

In one month were distributed from this station:—45 barrels of pickles; 528 bottles of preserves, cordials, etc.; 111 shirts; 159 pair of drawers; 8,900 papers; 7,100 pages of tracts; 1,895 hymn-books; 2,350 soldier's books; 455 Testaments; 700 spellers, arithmetics, etc.

Austin.—Rev. S. J. Orange and wife are laboring here. Mr. Orange writes on December 19th:—We are very anxious to have the big tent, for the Spirit of the Lord is at work in the camp. We hold two services every day, and in the last ten days have had thirty conversions, and many others desire the prayers of the meeting. This afternoon I preached and two officers made the good confession,—the first of the officers. How glorious is our work, and what a blessed privilege that God permits us to be instruments in His hand for so noble a purpose."

January 11th, he writes:—"Our work here is progressing most gloriously. Our tabernacle is pitched, and the Lord meets us there in our two meetings every day. Not a meeting without souls converted and backsliders reclaimed. We have in the last three weeks baptized forty, and organized a church which now numbers one hundred members."

January 15th, he writes:—"The meetings still continue twice a day. Yesterday four souls were received into the Kingdom of God's dear Son—*one whose head was white as snow, the oldest soldier in the command.* We have now one hundred and fifteen members."

At all of these stations the work is still in progress, and the indications of continued prosperity and usefulness were never greater than now. "To the Lord be all the glory."

Report from the National Committee on Ladies' Christian Comissions.

It was not until the third year of the war, that the idea of forming Ladies' Christian Commissions was carried out so as to assume a tangible form, or produce any practical results.

Much time was necessarily consumed in inaugurating a movement which was to embrace in its operation all the loyal territory of the country, and consequently the work was arrested almost in its infancy by the glorious advent of Peace. Much good, however, was done through the instrumentality of this minor agency even during its short life.

There were at the time of the organization of Ladies' Christian Commissions, very many societies formed among the loyal women of the land, intended to accomplish objects altogether in harmony with the work of the parent society, the results of which were seen and felt on many battle-fields from the commencement of the rebellion. The majority of these subsequently assumed the name of Ladies' Christian Commissions, and continued their labors as such. It has not been possible, to secure a *complete* record of each one of these organizations, and from many others of such societies, sending money and goods to the parent society, we have received no official records whatever; but enough is known of their efficiency during that short period of their labors, to make it certain that they would have proved valuable auxiliaries in administering substantial aid and comfort to the soldier.

A record, embracing the name of the society, the date of its organization, a list of its officers, and the amount of either money or goods contributed to the parent society, has been received from two hundred and sixty-six of these auxiliaries.

About eighty of these were in the city of Philadelphia, representing churches of all the evangelical denominations. These contributed during the year in money some fifteen thousand dollars.

The whole number whose records appear on our books (266,) were located in seventeen different States of the Union, and the aggregate of their receipts, as reported to the Commission, amounted to nearly *two hundred thousand dollars.*

These figures can by no means convey an adequate idea of the amount of self-denying labor performed by these societies, or the results of such labor. They cannot be estimated. Neither are they complete as regards the amount contributed, for the reason that a very large amount of stores and boxes of clothing, prepared by Ladies' societies, were forwarded to the Commission, whose valuation could not be obtained. This is particularly true in regard to country localities, especially in the west and north, where stores could be much more easily obtained than money, and the figures in such cases are not just criterions of the loyalty or liberality of such neighborhoods.

Rev. W. E. Boardman, (former secretary of the United States Christian Commission,) rendered efficient service in the organization and early history of our Ladies' Christian Commission.

Rev. George J. Mingins was associated with this movement on the Pacific coast. And the ladies of California and Oregon, though so far removed from the fields of deadly conflict, were behind none in their labors and gifts for the soldiers' comfort.

The Lord has brought our work, as a Commission, for the welfare of soldiers and sailors, to an end. For whatever of good has been accomplished, to *His* name be all the praise.

MRS. W. G. CROWELL,
Sec. of National Committee on Ladies' Christian Commissions.
ROBERT J. PARVIN,
Chairman, &c.

CLOSING OF THE COMMISSION.

THE Fourth and Closing Anniversary of the Commission was held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., on Sabbath Evening, February 11th, 1866. The Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity—thousands of those who came were unable to gain admittance. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House, presided. The Scriptures were read by Rev. Dr. Taylor. Prayers were offered by Rev. Dr. Boynton and Rev. Lemuel Moss. A statement of the work was made by Geo. H. Stuart, Esq.; an abstract of the Annual Report was read by Rev. E. P. Smith; and addresses were delivered by Speaker Colfax, Maj. Gen. Auger, Rear Admiral Davis, Hon. J. R. Doolittle, Bishop Simpson, Rev. Herrick Johnson, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, and Charles Demond, Esq. The singing was led by Philip Phillips, Esq., of Cincinnati. The Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Dyer. Chief Justice Chase, members of the Cabinet and of both Houses of Congress, Lieut. Gen. Grant and a large number of military and naval officers, and other distinguished men of the nation were present. At a late hour the large audience reluctantly left the Hall, and thus closed, in the nation's Capitol, the last of this most interesting series of meetings.

The Final Business Meeting of the U. S. Christian Commission was held in Washington, D. C., on the evening of Saturday, February 10th, 1866, when the following Preamble and Resolutions, were unanimously adopted as expressive of the feelings of the Commission at the closing of its labors:—

Whereas, The causes which brought into existence and have continued for four years the labors of the UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION have now happily ceased, therefore,

Resolved, That our most sincere thanks are due to ALMIGHTY GOD for the termination of the Rebellion, and for thus opening the whole country to the influences of Education and Religion.

Resolved, That we also express our devout gratitude to GOD, for His blessing upon the officers and delegates of the Commission in their efforts to relieve the sufferings of our soldiers and seamen—and to impart to them—and especially to the sick and dying—that instruction and consolation in the religion of Jesus, which is beyond *price*.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

OF

FIELD STATIONS AND WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND FOR 1864.

The following statements of work in Tennessee and Georgia, failed to take their proper place in the last annual report, and are here presented as having too much interest to be without preservation in some recorded form.

NASHVILLE.

This station continues as heretofore to be our base of operations. Stores are here received, and assorted and forwarded. Delegates here enter army lines, and are assigned to their work in the hospitals and camps of the city or at stations farther on. Our Delegates' Home has witnessed delightful scenes of Christian love and toil. Through the kindness of Mrs. Harris we have occupied one of the largest residences in the city for the home. Our store room and reading and writing room have been furnished free of rent by order of General Thomas. Our daily prayer meeting, McKendree chapel omitted, and in the Zollicoffer Barracks the daily prayer meeting, commenced during the first week that the Christian Commission occupied Nashville, has never failed. These barrack meetings are becoming quite a feature in our work. All soldiers passing in detachments or regiments, to or from the front, are quartered in these barracks for the night and sometimes for a week.

The same is true at Louisville. Here time hangs heavily. Often there are very destitute men here. Our meetings, and our personal aid and sympathy, are always acceptable, and often result in unex-

pected good. Many times in our meetings farther on to the front, do we hear soldiers speak of the meetings they had in Louisville and Nashville barracks, where they were impressed, and came back to their regiments resolved to do and to be better. While the regiments were going home on their veteran furlough, all the barracks of the city were filled, and sometimes a regiment would be awaiting transportation for a week or ten days, our meetings of one, two, or three times daily, were of great good in recalling home pledges and strengthening the men for a new enlistment. Some of the men who took so active a part in the great revival at Cleveland and Ringgold were awakened at these barracks as they were passing to the front.

Mr. T. R. Ewing, of Pennsylvania, has been in charge of this station work, assisted by Deacon Charles Crosby, of Massachusetts. Of the hospital stores distributed, large quantities during the year have come mainly from Cincinnati and Pittsburg; Indianapolis and Buffalo have also contributed freely.

MURFREESBORO'

station has continued through the year and until May in charge of H. C. Houghton, Esq. Our writing and reading room, and daily prayer meeting, and the continual labors of two or more delegates with relief stores, have been of great help to the comfort and spiritual welfare of the soldiers at this post.

HUNTSVILLE

station was superintended by Rev. H. D. Lathrop until the movement on Atlanta brought him to the charge of the work in Chattanooga, and this station was discontinued for a few months until our forces, falling back from Atlanta in November, gathered around Huntsville and made it an important station again. Rev. H. McLeod was in charge when Huntsville was evacuated, and brought off his forces and stores with but slight loss.

BRIDGEPORT, ALABAMA.

This station, mentioned in the last report as set up and superintended by Rev. R. D. Douglass, was last in the charge of Rev. N. B. Critchfield,—when Mr. Douglass, following the 11th Corps, went to Lookout Valley. Our usual station work of hospital distribution, chapel service, reading and writing room, was very satis-

factorily continued here. On the assignment of Mr. Critchfield to active work at the front, where he was afterwards appointed chaplain of 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Sergeant Clough, a disabled Ohio soldier, was detailed to our service, and was placed in charge of our station.

LOOKOUT VALLEY.

General Hooker's men, the 11th and 12th Corps, gathered together in winter quarters in Lookout Valley in the month of February. Mr. Douglass set up his station quarters and chapel near the railroad station, one mile from General Howard's head-quarters. General Howard not only approved and gave us efficient aid, but he evidently enjoyed the presence and work of the Commission. In addition to our usual Sabbath services in the chapel, a Sabbath school for soldiers and citizens was established. The citizens were the women and children—poor whites of the valley. An adjutant of General Howard was the superintendent, and the General had a class of a dozen of the smallest children. A great amount of work was done, and well done, at this station. General Howard speaks of it in a letter to Philadelphia as a "model station," and adds:—"I have frequently visited the Commission tent of its agent, Mr. Douglass. Your General Field Agent, Rev. Mr. S., was with us last Sabbath in our Sabbath school. He instructed the poor children in a wonderful manner. At five that afternoon he preached to a large audience at my head-quarters. The soldiers listened with marked attention, and many a rugged man was effected to tears. Some one of the delegates preach at these head-quarters nearly every Sabbath evening.

"I regard this little station of the Commission of incalculable benefit to this command. There seems to be complete harmony and co-operation between the delegates and chaplains, as there ought to be between men working for a common Lord.

"At one time after the battle of Chattanooga, in the long march to Knoxville and back, there was considerable sickness in the command and much of a scorbutic character, whereupon your agents promptly furnished us with potatoes and other vegetables, which it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain through any other channel at that time."

CHATTANOOGA.

Rev. William A. Lawrence took charge of this station after the

battle of Mission Ridge. He was joined soon after by Rev. J. F. Loyd who took the direction of the religious work of the camps and hospitals at Chattanooga, until in the reorganization of the army under General Sherman, the Eleventh and Twelfth corps were consolidated into the Twentieth under General Hooker, and General Howard, was assigned to the command of the Fourth corps. Mr. Loyd took charge of the Commission work in the Fourth corps then lying at Cleveland, preparing for the Atlantic campaign. We give herewith extracts from Mr. Loyd's report of his work:—

"I reached Chattanooga soon after the battle of Mission Ridge. I found here a well-organized corps of efficient delegates who were visiting the sick and wounded, holding services, distributing stores, and writing letters. By request of the field agent, I assumed the direction of delegate-work, leaving to Rev. W. A. Lawrence the management of finances and general business matters.

All the churches were used by the military authorities, either for hospitals or other purposes; except the Roman Catholic, which was protected by a safe-guard, granted by General Rosecrans.

We had no special light diet-kitchen then, but under the supervision of Mrs. Dickenson delicacies were daily prepared and sent by the hands of delegates or messengers from the hospitals to the patients. I remember going on one occasion in company with Mr. W——— and one of our older delegates, to distribute what the boys considered a luxury. It should be borne in mind that means transportation were then solicited, and that it was well nigh impossible to get stores through. Even the wounded men in hospitals had only hard bread and side meat. In many cases we prepared dishes for sick patients before entering the hospital. In one ward there were seventeen patients, and we had but sixteen messes, each consisting of a piece of corn bread, a baked potatoe hot from an oven, and a little stewed fruit. When it was known that a fellow-sufferer had not his share, a comrade on another cot cried out, "Here, give him mine, I'll do without."

A stout Wisconsin man, with a leg shot off, holding up his potatoe, said, "Boys this seems like getting back to God's country once more."

The mortality among the patients was unusually great, owing in great part to a lack of proper nourishment. On the first of January I visited the general field hospital, south of Chattanooga, near

the foot of Lookout Mountain. The storm which had raged in the night, had thrown down about twenty tents. In some cases convalescents had crawled out during the storm to assist the nurses in holding the tents to prevent their falling upon the wounded. In company with Mrs. Wittenmyer, Rev. Mr. Edie and Mrs. Bickerdyke, we passed through the tents.

The feet of some of the men were frozen, and freezing still. The wind was blowing in at every corner of the tent, and through every lap of the canvass. The whole presented a scene of suffering such as I wish never again to witness. Mrs. Bickerdyke, like an angel of mercy, had been up till midnight, and was out again at four o'clock in the morning with heated bricks and stoves, doing all in her power to relieve the intense suffering.

The first week in January having been set apart as a week of prayer, we determined to observe it, and appointed a meeting for one o'clock at our reading room. When the hour came there were about thirty convalescents in the room awaiting a boat. We announced to them the fact, that this week had been set apart for a concert of prayer, to be observed by Christians throughout the world, and, that we wished to commence our prayer-meeting. They sat down; we circulated hymn-books, sang, prayed, read a portion of Scripture, and had commenced commenting briefly, when the boat was announced.

Instantly, nearly every man was on his feet, and with knapsack hastily arranged, was making for the door. One, feeling that some kind of an apology was due, said, "We would like to stay and hear you, mister, but the boat has come and we want to go." A few remained, and we resumed our comments. By the time of closing, the house had pretty nearly filled up again.

Finding the meeting profitable, we concluded to continue it, and it became a daily institution.

For a description of our daily duties, I give herewith the work of

A DAY IN THE READING ROOM

We open at 9 o'clock, A. M., and close at 3½ P. M. Long before nine, men are trying the door, and when it is finally opened the room fills up in a few minutes. From that time till closing nearly every pen is in motion,—a dozen men at a time writing letters. We use an old store-room with a counter on each side. That on the south

—we front east—has a row of seats behind it where these writers sit. Our inkstands are fastened by means of a piece of tin, six inches long. A hole is in the centre through which the neck of the bottle is thrust, the ends are then bent down and nailed on the counter. This secures them against *military* transportation. One or two copies each of *Harper's*, and the *Atlantic*, and *Continental Monthlies*, are fastened by slender chains to the counter. In front of each counter is a row of seats, where we have from twenty to forty men sitting, reading our papers, looking at our monthlies, or enjoying the illustrations of *Harper's Weekly*, which we keep always on file. Our library is at the far end of the room behind the counter, but there is space enough near the wall for the boys to get around to it and pick for themselves. It is a very poor one, and I feel half ashamed of it, but still it is much better than none. On the south side of the room is quite an array of papers, soldiers' books, and Testaments. The poor delegate who stands behind the counter has a busy time of it. At about half-past twelve some one takes his place while he goes up to the dining-room for his lunch. At one, he or some other announces, "It is our prayer-meeting hour; please be seated and we will commence." One or two go out, the rest quietly sit down, the writers lay down their pens and pick up the Hymn Books, and service begins. As the meeting progresses the holy fire burns, fervid amens are heard, the singing is earnest and the prayer of the soldier who has fought many battles for his country, and feels that God has protected him, is humble yet touching. Now a few minutes are devoted to speaking. This is always interesting. One remarked: "The trials, temptations, and sufferings in the army are many and severe. I have been much exposed to them, and while I have not been as victorious as I ought and would like to have been, yet God has kept me from falling. I have served God for twelve years, and have enjoyed more of religion, and have grown more in grace this last year, than in all the other years together. I want to be more faithful, more holy, and kept from sin. Brethren, pray that it may be so." Another: "It is now twenty-eight years since I entered God's service, and three years since I entered the army. My mind and time have been much taken up with worldly affairs; so much so that I have not had time to attend the prayer meeting till to-day. I am glad to be here and to meet with you. It is a cross for me now to stand up and speak, while

at home I used to speak two and three times a week, but of late I have grown so cold and worldly that I find it a cross to speak to you of Christ. I am ashamed of it and sorry for it. Pray that God may forgive me and make me better." Another:—"I stand up as a witness for Christ to-day, willing to serve Christ, but I come short. Since I left home I have had nó opportunity of waiting upon God except the one I now have. If I should die or fall in battle I hope it will be well with me. I trust that I have made my peace with God."

A fourth:—"I am thankful for the privilege of meeting with the friends of Christ in this place to-day. To meet with you is a relief from the company of the wicked and profane. My heart has been chilled and religion has grown cold by the petty conversation and conduct of my ungodly comrades. I only heard of this meeting two or three days ago. To me it is as refreshing as a spring in a desert to a thirsty traveller. Only five years since I professed faith in Christ. I was born in Scotland, brought up religiously, but lived ungodly like the prodigal. God made me feel my guilt and misery, and in my distress I cried unto him, and He heard my cry. He took me out of the deep pit, from the miry clay, set my feet upon a rock, established my goings, and put a new song in my mouth. God be praised."

The prayer meeting lasts only three-quarters of an hour unless it is very interesting, when we sometimes permit the whole hour to be used. The benediction is pronounced, the service is ended, and the delegate returns to his post behind the counter.

Perhaps twenty or thirty soldiers have come in, and a dozen or more are waiting to be served. One has returned a book and wishes the record cancelled. Another has just selected one and wishes it charged to him. This one wants a sheet of paper, another a pen, etc. Here a man wants blackberry cordial. There is one would like a few apples for a sick man. This young man has wrapped up a neat photograph shadow of himself, and wants a little paste to fit it for the mail. But the soldiers are orderly. They wait very patiently for you to get through with one thing; but they allow no waste of time. If you are folding papers they will wait for you to fold fifty, perhaps, before they will interrupt; but, if you walk down toward the other end of the counter, a half a dozen will be sure to hail you for something in passing.

But the closing hour has come. The room is crowded. A half dozen letters are yet unfinished. The delegate is tired. What can he do? "Our closing hour has come, gentlemen. Please finish your letters, and make your selections of books, as quickly as possible." The sidewalks are yet full of men passing and repassing. "Christian Commission" arrests the attention of a soldier. He stalks in, followed by one or a half dozen comrades. What is to be done? The delegate locks the door. Up jumps one or two to go out. The delegate present follows to lock it again, or else when they go out a half dozen will come in. He returns,—waits upon the men at the counter,—runs to the door to let another batch out,—tells those who stand at the door to come back to-morrow,—answers two or three questions, and again locks the door. He repeats the operation a number of times, and the room is at last empty.

For hours after the room is closed there are raps and knocks and shakings of the door, which would make the delegate nervous, but for the fact that he can retreat to our sitting-room up stairs. Here he sits down and looks over the record of his day's work, so as to make out his daily report, and, though wearied, he feels that he labors in a good cause, and he fervently prays that God may bless the Word, water the seed sown, and make it produce abundant fruit.

About the last of January the Baptist Church was assigned to us for religious services. General Johnson ordered seats to be made, and we opened it as a post chapel. Meetings were held here each Sabbath, and every evening. Soon the awakening power of God was manifest. Penitents came to the altar, and souls were converted. About the same time Rev. D. Griffin came as a delegate from Yellow Springs, Ohio. He was a robust, hearty looking man, worked earnestly and successfully for a few days, took cold, and was soon prostrated with fever. Every attention in our power was given him. The best surgeons were called in, but in vain. He died on the sixth of February. His faith in Christ was strong, and he frequently expressed, during his sickness, his submissiveness and willingness to die, and was at times filled with joy. His end was peace. His funeral sermon was preached at our rooms February seventh and his embalmed remains were sent home to his friends.

The meetings in our chapel were crowded every night, and full of

enthusiasm. The Chaplains labored faithfully in filling appointments to preach in connection with the delegates.

The men were the heroes of Chickamauga, and Mission Ridge, and Lookout Mountain. Very many of them had promised God in the thick of the fight to give their life to Him, if He would bring them safely out. And now God was reminding them of promises unkept. Night after night there was a breaking of hearts before God, and scores and hundreds found the Saviour.

The mustering of his host by General Sherman, for advance into Georgia, gave our work a new impulse in April. At Ringgold and Cleveland a remarkable religious revival began among the veteran troops, who knew very well by the three years past what it meant to be at the front waiting marching orders with the enemy lying in full force before them.

At Ringgold the crowded church every night, the full morning meetings for inquirers of the way of life, the prayer-meetings established in the soldiers' huts and even on the picket-post, testify to such grace and power of God as is rarely exhibited. A Kentucky soldier, one of the most ungodly men in his regiment, had spent the night in prayer and found no relief. In the morning he met his Chaplain on his horse and asked him to pray for him. The Chaplain promised, but said the man, "I mean now." "What, here in the road?" "Yes, here, Chaplain, now." They knelt and prayed, and others who were passing came and knelt, till there were more than two or three agreeing in the petition that the sinful one should be forgiven, and the answer came. The soldier went down to his house and carried the word of Life to his comrades. They could not resist the claims of religion when they were pressed upon them so earnestly and persistently.

The converted men desired baptism. They received the ordinance at the river,—some by sprinkling, some by immersion,—but after baptism they came up from the river to the church, and all sat down together at the Lord's table—Commissary bread—currant wine—tin plates and tin cups. These were the circumstances of the Lord's supper, but these did not keep the Master from the feast of love, nor hinder the baptism of the Spirit upon these men, whom God was making ready for four months of march and battle. For an account of the work at Cleveland and Resaca we refer again to the report of Rev. Mr. Loyd.

Major General Howard took command of the Fourth Corps, about the 1st of April, 1864. Shortly afterwards I reached Cleveland, and assumed direction of the Christian Commission work there. Rev. S. Critchfield had preceded me, opened rooms and commenced religious services. W. J. Tucker, from Andover, Mass., was sent to aid me. At our first interview with General Howard he gave us a cordial welcome, and assured us of his co-operation; he said he had ordered the churches to be cleaned, and opened for Divine services, that he usually had religious services at his Head Quarters, on Sabbath, but as he was now so conveniently near the village, he would dispense with them and attend one of the churches.

About the middle of April, Rev. Star Nichols and Brothers Moody and Bliss, from Chicago, and Brother Reynolds, from Peoria, Ill., came to our relief. Arrangements were immediately made to visit regiments, and hold brief services through the day, and invite the soldiers to our night meetings in the churches. Three of these were put in order, and soon all were filled, and the Divine approval was manifested in awakenings and conversions. A four o'clock prayer-meeting, superintended by Brother Moody, was held for the special benefit of inquirers. A Sabbath School was organized in one of the churches, and in this General Howard took an active part, teaching a class of little girls and frequently addressing the school. The religious interest increased. The General expressed to me his regret that business was so urgent that he could not attend and share in the evening services. He however was present two or three successive evenings of that week, and never failed to take an active part, speaking in our social meetings,—praying for penitents, and sometimes addressing the congregation with great power. His last address, Sunday evening May 1st, will long be remembered. The church was densely crowded. Two or three short addresses had been given, when brother Moody went down the aisle and invited the General forward, and requested him to address the audience. With a calm, unostentatious manner he commenced. As he progressed he became animated, and a divine unction seemed to rest on both speaker and congregation. When he closed, brother Moody made a few brief remarks, and invited inquirers to occupy the central tier of seats. Eighty-three took their seats as persons desiring an interest in the prayers of the

church, and some, ere the meeting closed, received comfort in believing in Christ.

One of the Head Quarter's guard, himself a wicked man, told me that their General was "a bully Christian." He said one day, while on duty, he heard some one reading and stopped to listen. It was the General reading his Scripture lesson. Curiosity was excited. The sentinel walked his beat and returning, stopped again to listen. The General was now engaged in earnest prayer.

Monday night, May 2d.—Every church was full, although the entire Corps was under marching orders. Colonel Buckner of the Seventy-ninth Illinois preached with power to a large congregation, and at the close the anxious came in crowds to the altar and many found peace. How many then experienced a change of heart we do not know. Brother Moody kept a register of the names of inquirers, of which, during the two weeks of his stay, there were over two hundred.

An order was issued soon after our meetings were commenced requiring that soldiers attending religious services should be passed by the guards, until a reasonable time after the close of such services. Brother Moody full of zeal would often remain talking, singing and praying with such as seemed deeply awakened.

One evening, on returning to his boarding house, he approached a sentinel.

"Halt!" rang out on the air,—interrupting somewhat the meditations of brother Moody. He obeyed.

Guard.—"Who comes there?"

Moody.—In full heavy voice—"Pilgrim Zion bound."

Guard.—"Pass on, Pilgrim."

The corps moved on Tuesday. Wednesday morning, being duly provided with canteens, blankets, gum-coat, shelter-tent, and haversacks filled with five days rations, Mr. Tucker and myself set out on foot to follow the army. Twenty-two miles—fifteen on foot and seven in a wagon—brought us up with the rear of the corps.

Sticking one end of a rail in the forks of an apple-tree and putting a board under the other, we pitched our tent over it, spread our blankets, held an evening devotion, and slept soundly till four o'clock in the morning.

Breakfast over, we had morning devotions in Captain Bridge's Battery, some twenty or thirty of his men uniting with us.

Saturday, May 7th.—Marched at four o'clock, A. M., went into camp near Tunnel Hill, Ga., at two. Preached to about three hundred persons at seven P. M.

Sunday 8th.—Preached to a good congregation, made up of the Seventy-first and Seventy-fourth Illinois, and the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin regiments. Just as we were singing the doxology, the signal for breaking camp came, and in half an hour we were again on the march. We halted at the foot of Rocky-face Ridge. Here we found sixteen or seventeen wounded men from the One hundred and twenty-fifth Ohio, which had driven the enemy some distance on the ridge. Returning with these to the Division Hospital located in Tunnel Hill, we gave our attention to the souls and bodies of the wounded and dying, as circumstances permitted.

Monday Night.—Col. Buckner, alluded to above, was brought in severely though not mortally wounded. He was calm, resigned and happy. The religion he had preached in health, now comforted him.

To show that neither the march, nor the excitement of approaching battle had dissipated the religious feeling awakened at Cleveland I give the following instances:—

During the skirmishing at Tunnell Hill, Chaplain Burkitt of the Twenty-first Kentucky, said to me, "Brother Loyd, I wish you would come and preach to my regiment again; I have not for many years seen such a revival as is now going on in it. We have meetings every night, and had sixteen or seventeen seeking religion at our meeting last night."

On Thursday night, Johnson evacuated his strong position at "Buzzard's Roost," and fell back to Resaca. A march of nearly fifteen miles on Friday made us sufficiently weary to camp and enjoy a good sleep on the ground without shelter. We were now with the hospital train, and the only disturbance of our slumbers was occasioned by the restlessness of the mules, whose heels were in rather close proximity to our heads.

About noon of Saturday, the battle commenced. I will not attempt a description. I was not in the fight but saw and heard enough, and as the brave boys were brought in with faces disfigured by blood and wounds with mangled limbs and torn and bleeding bodies, I began to realize the horrors of war.

We gave attention to Newton's Division Hospital, which had about three hundred and fifty wounded during the battle.

Monday 15th.—The enemy evacuated Resaca. In the evening I went with an ambulance train, containing one hundred and twenty of our wounded to the depot at Resaca. The men were transferred to box cars, the floors being covered with straw, and the poor uncomplaining sufferers adjusted themselves, as best they could, for their long, painful ride to Chattanooga.

Not being able to march with the corps, I remained at Resaca.

Rev. H. D. Lathrop and others came next day. We secured an old double-log house with slab floor and a wide open hall connecting with a porch in front and with sheds in the rear. Here we commenced operations. Some captured and confiscated sacks of rice and corn meal were obtained. Camp kettles were borrowed, and brother Lathrop and myself tried our skill in boiling rice and making mush. Plates and dishes we had not, but the soldiers held out their tin cups, or some picked up fruit cans, and we filled them from the mush or rice-kettle with a wooden ladle extemporized for the occasion. Our rooms were usually crowded—almost a man for every slab. We not only arranged for feeding these with mush and rice, but as the wounded were coming from the skirmish lines every day we arranged to supply them. Stores were sent us from Chattanooga, and better rooms were secured. A few days later brother Lawrence came from the front, and we established a regular feeding station. With the assistance of a half dozen soldiers we formed a rack of railroad iron long enough to hold fifteen camp kettles, underneath which we could build our fires. With these full, and a barrel provided in advance, we were ready for anything. We drew coffee, sugar and hard bread, and occasionally bought soft bread when it could be had,—often feeding one or two trains. We found that one barrel was not enough, and a second was provided.

One Sunday afternoon a telegram announced that a train containing two hundred and fifty men was just leaving the front. In twenty minutes our large camp kettles were arranged on their iron rack, and soon both barrels were full of hot coffee. The train did not reach us till Monday morning, yet our coffee was still warm and the boys drank it with appreciation. As soon as the coffee was served, our large coffee-boilers were made into water-pots and we went from car to car filling canteens with cold water. No one but a wounded soldier unable to help himself, and doomed to ride from one to three days in a freight car, is competent to say what

such a coffee station is worth. Over eighteen hundred sick and wounded men were thus fed in one week. During most of that week I was suffering from sickness, and could not go to the train. But Major Lapham and Chaplain Crissey of the One Hundred and Eleventh Illinois were always ready, with a score of boys if needed, to carry out any suggestion; and they would repeat to me the expressions of gratitude, as they heard them from the lips of the boys:—"*That coffee wa'n't made in no camp-kettle.*" "God bless the Christian Commission." Feeding the men was not the whole of our work. On one occasion, some thirty or forty wounded men had been brought in and laid on the floor of a frame building, which served as a depot and a kind of transfer hospital; and strange as it may seem, every surgeon, steward, and nurse, to whose care they had been entrusted, had (so far as we could learn) forsaken them. We were informed and went on immediately and with the agents of the United States Sanitary Commission who had prepared some excellent coffee, did what we could for their comfort. Some were screaming with pain,—some groaning in agony,—while others, suffering from intense thirst, cried, "water! water!" The bandages were dry,—their wounds inflamed and swelling. Our first work was to wet the tight bandage; then give them water to drink. The Post Surgeon sent in some nurses. Some of us, with their help, readjusted the bandages; others passed the coffee. Soon every complaint was hushed;—we offered an evening prayer, and by midnight nearly all were sleeping.

As much has been said about the wasting of Sanitary goods, I take pleasure in stating, that so far as my observation extended, but little, comparatively, was wasted or misapplied. The supplies for the United States Sanitary Commission at Resaca were large, and well timed. When we were at the Division Hospital, and had no quilts nor spreads, no soft bread nor condensed milk nor crackers, and when our mattresses—if we may dignify them with the name—were dirty and bloody, having served for two or three patients successively, you may imagine the gratitude we felt when the Agent of the Sanitary Commission reached us with two wagon loads of stores.

While we attended to physical wants, we did not neglect the spiritual. We had services every Sabbath and nearly every night through the week at our rooms; and usually in the afternoon in

some of the camps or hospitals. We visited the Field Hospital half a mile north of Resaca, daily. The surgeon in charge desired us not to preach in the hospital tents, but requested that religious services should be held at some convenient point where the convalescents could attend. We accordingly held our services; usually selecting a position near some of the tents, so that the patients in them could hear. After preaching, we would pass from tent to tent, talking and praying with the boys, as prudence dictated. In one ward there was a great anxiety for preaching.

"Chaplain, won't you preach for us?" said one.

"And, chaplain," said an Irishman, "won't you plase praich for us? We want to hear a wee bit of civilization once more."

I referred the case to the surgeon. He said every man in the tent must be consulted. If one objected the services must not be held. I returned and asked every man. One hesitated,—said talking hurt him. Others said, "Let's have it, but make it short." I preached,—the entire sermon lasting about twenty minutes. I asked the young man if it hurt him. "Oh no!" said he, "It did me good." I reported to the surgeon, and he seemed pleased and afterward afforded every facility in his power for benefiting his patients.

August 1st I went by direction of the agent at Chattanooga to Rome, Ga., seventeen miles west of Kingston, to open a station. I found there about two thousand two hundred sick and wounded men belonging to the Department of the Tennessee.

JOHN F. LOYD,
Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.

While Mr. Loyd was following the 4th Corps in its marchings and fightings, and feeding the wounded at Resaca, the agents and delegates of the Commission were doing similar work at Tunnel Hill and Dalton, and Rev. W. A. Lawrence and Arthur Lawrence, Esq., and D. J. W. French were on their march and mission with the 20th Corps, and Rev. H. McLeod with the 23d Corps. At Resaca, Kingston, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Kennesaw Mountain, Acworth, Altoona Mountains, Big Shanty, Marietta, Vincing's Station, and finally at Atlanta, the Commission did its work. At each station our hearts and hands were full. Except at Atlanta, the work was principally with sick, wounded and dying men.

Our five gallon coffee pots came to be the banners of the Commission, by which the delegates were known at a distance.

At Atlanta the work of distribution of reading in the regiments and chapel services again began, and the same delightful and wonderful meetings that we were enjoying when the army broke camp in May were held every night.

When General Sherman's advance from Atlanta became known, all our effects were shipped back to Chattanooga, and the two Lawrences accompanied the army, one with the right and the other with the left wing, upon their unknown march into the enemy's country.

Our work in the army was for a time seriously impeded and, we feared, wholly interrupted by an order from General Sherman, prohibiting all persons beyond Chattanooga. This order was afterwards so modified as to allow such delegates to go as on requisition of a medical officer were deemed necessary for distribution of hospital stores. Under this modification we had no further difficulty during the campaign against Atlanta, except what was inevitable in getting supplies over the long line of railroad, which was the only source of supply for 100,000 fighting men. This Commission campaign in Georgia in the heat of summer was extremely exhausting upon the delegates; many of them were prostrated after reaching home, and two died.

In November the rebels, under General Hood, following our forces as they fell back from the Tennessee river, brought the "front" into middle Tennessee, and in a few weeks to the fortifications of Nashville. In the fights at Columbia and Spring Hill the Commission was well represented, and able to afford personal relief to many of the wounded. In the terrible battle of Franklin, and the hasty falling back to Nashville there was all and more than our strong party could do. The delegates who had dressed wounds till midnight at Spring Hill, and then marched on foot with the ambulance train to Franklin, (fourteen miles before day,) and then dressed wounds till dark, came into Nashville at midnight with ten box cars loaded with wounded, and worked till daylight lifting and loading them into the ambulances. We were the sole persons in charge of these men—not even having nurses to carry them on the stretchers.

Some of the scenes in the fight at Nashville have been given elsewhere. Never was our Commission more busy or more useful. In the days following the battles, when Hood was flying in disgrace

and our men cheering in triumph, the hospitals in and around Nashville were full of dying men. Our prisoners abandoned by their rebel captors at Franklin were in extreme destitution, and had been cut off from all intercourse with home since the battle of Franklin in November. Their friends were also in terrible suspense, not knowing whether "missing" meant dead or captured. To minister to these thousands of sufferers, to console and cheer the dying, to provide personal relief, to write letters in all directions, some for the soldiers still lingering, and some to tell of death, and carry "last words," made our Christian Commission Home in Nashville a busy scene. Weeks were crowded into hours, and months into days. The delegates caught the spirit of the occasion and proved themselves to be just such men as the Commission seeks to send—home representatives. No father or brother could have toiled harder to serve and comfort loved ones than have the delegates amid these terrible scenes. Neither have we labored in vain. Every night we felt, and knew, that we had relieved dreadful suffering, which, but for our presence, would have continued. Neither have our labors been unrecognized. Medical and general officers have called to thank us for aid to their men. These testimonials from officers and privates are our richest reward. I would rather get them than a medal from Congress. The donations which the privates were continually handing in, and would not be refused the privilege of giving, were very touching testimony to the work of the Commission from those who knew. We have letters from officers daily of congratulations and thanks. I add one received a few days since from an officer who has known us long and thoroughly:—

"Please find enclosed one hundred dollars. It is my Christmas gift to our noble army and navy. I only wish it was one hundred times one hundred.

"When I think what our soldiers and sailors undergo of privation and sufferings, and remember that as volunteers these are their *gift* to the country, I am ashamed of my offerings, and feel that were I to empty my purse for their good my gift would bear no comparison with their's, for giving property is one thing but giving self is quite another.

"*Twenty-eight months* of experience in the army have taught me the various needs of our soldiers, and twenty months of observation, under the most favorable circumstances, have shown me how the